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**The history and
famous exploits of
Robin Hood**

London

[1816?]

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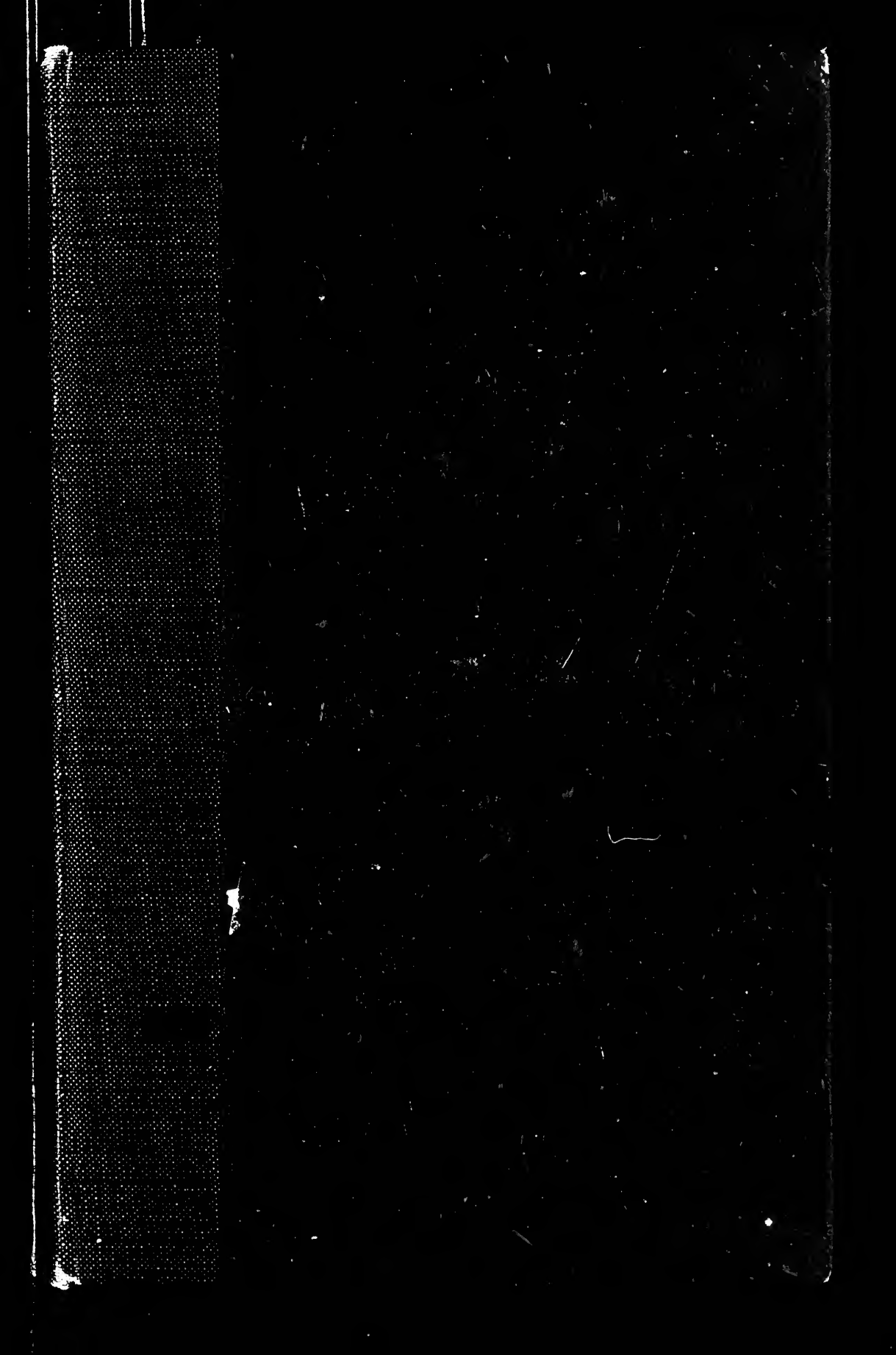
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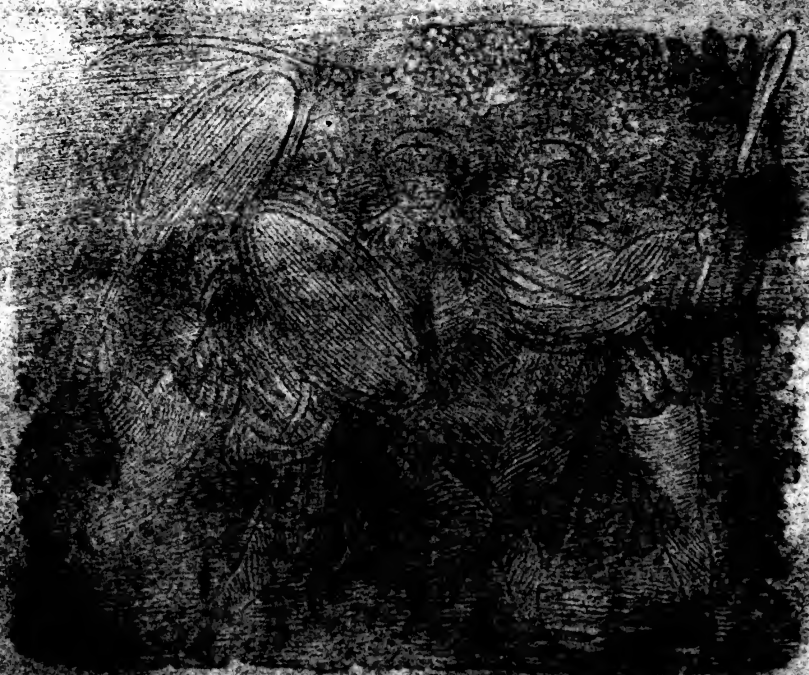
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THE
HISTORY AND FAMOUS EXPLOITS

OF

ROBIN HOOD,

DISPLAYING

THE MERRY SPEECHES AND GALLANT BEHAVIOUR

OF

Him and his skilful Band of Archers,

ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS;

Including

AN ACCOUNT OF HIS

BIRTH, EDUCATION, MARRIAGE, AND DEATH,
&c. &c.

A NEW EDITION.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE BOOKSELLERS,
AND FOR J. KENDREW, COLLIERGATE, YORK.

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PREFACE.

THERE is scarce any story so popular, and yet so little known, as that of Robin Hood. Many people look upon all that is said of him as fabulous, and think that his actions never existed any where but in the fertile brains of inventing poets. But in this they are greatly mistaken, and many historians agree that he lived in the reign of King Richard the first. This king, transported with a blind religious zeal, ruined himself, and almost his whole nation, to carry on a war against the Infidels in the Holy Land, whither he went himself; and during his absence, England was filled with intestine troubles, and infested with thieves and robbers.—

But among all the outlaws and banditti which abounded, none made so considerable a figure as Robin Hood, who chiefly resided in Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire; where he exerted the power he acquired with much moderation; for so far was he from harming the poor, he did them all the good he could, and never offered to stop or molest any women. Besides Little John, he had an hundred archers in his train, but none, except the rich and covetous, stood in fear of him; and of these he seldom abused any that he stopped. Some writers have said that he was originally a

nobleman ; but having riotously spent his estate, he took to this way, that he might live free from dependance ; but of this we have no certain authority. At length, king Henry set a very considerable price on the head of Robin Hood, and endeavoured, both by force and cunning, to apprehend him, but all his attempts proved fruitless ; till at last, Robin falling ill, went to a nunnery to be blooded, where he was bled to death by some person for the sake of the reward.

As to the following stories, which are mostly taken from a collection of very ancient English ballads, and which are newly written, with many corrections and additions to connect the whole together, and elucidate the obscure passages, we hope they will prove an entertaining present, and satisfy the curiosity of those who have often wished to see a clear and connected relation of the bold exploits of Robin Hood, of whom every one has heard, though few know any thing of his history. At the end of each story we have added a poetical summary or moral reflection, to render the whole more unexceptionable.

LIFE AND ADVENTURES

OF

ROBIN HOOD.

The Birth and Parentage of Robin Hood.

KIND gentlemen listen a while to my story, and I will tell you the bold exploits of the famous Robin Hood, and his comrade Little John.

All England was filled with the renown of Robin Hood, and the great and the valiant stood in fear of him. He never harmed the poor, for he pitied their fate, and only spoiled the wealthy and proud, or nobles and slothful bishops, who lived in state on the fruit of the husbandman's toil. Robin was born in the merry town of Locksley, in Nottinghamshire. His father (who could wrestle and sing with the very best man in the county, and never was beat in a fight) was a stout forester, and kept the deer of king Richard the first. He was an archer that shot with a lusty strong bow. In those unsettled times, when the strongest ruled over the weak, the nation was governed by arbitrary power, and vast tracts of the most fertile land, in every part of the kingdom, were thrown into forests, to multiply game for diversion of the king and his nobles. Robin's mother was niece to the celebrated Sir Guy of Warwick, and was sister to Squire Gamewell, of Great Gamewell Hall, about forty miles distant from Locksley, who was famed for his beef and strong beer. His neighbours often went to partake of his bounty, he welcomed them all, and pleased every guest with good cheer.

One day (when Robin was about fourteen years old) his mother thus spoke to her spouse; 'Dear Husband to-morrow is Christmas-day, therefore let Robin and I take a ride to Gamewell Hall this morning to see my brother, and taste

his good ale and pudding.'—'My dear Joan,' said his father, 'I consent. Take one of my horses, and make haste for it is a long ride.' The gelding was saddled, and Robin mounted, dressed out in the finest degree, with a suit of new clothes, having a blue bonnet, and a cloak that hung down to his knees, (as the fashion then was). His mother put on her holiday gown of homespun make, and when they were well seated, Robin galloped away, and never gave over till they alighted at Gamewell Hall. The squire, who was overjoyed to see his sister, kissed her over and over, and cried out all the while, 'Welcome, kind sister, to Gamewell Hall.'

Next day, when mass had been said in the chapel, six tables were spread in the hall, a large company assembled, and the squire came in and said, 'You are welcome, kind gentlemen all. But none that are here must sit at my table, till they have sung a good Christmas carol.' At this they all clapped their hands, and broke out into shouting and singing, till they made the hall and the parlour ring. Roast-beef, plum-pudding, good brawn, and mince-pies, were then placed upon every table. Squire Gamewell sat down with them, and said, 'Neighbours, eat and be free, and drink every one his fill.' When dinner was over, his chaplain said grace. 'Now let us be merry, my friends,' says their host; 'Lo! it rains and it blows; so lay some more wood on the fire; let each man keep his seat, and call for more ale.' Thus, when they had drank as long as they were able of his strong March beer, and all were got jocund and gay, some sung Christmas hymns most devoutly, some told a merry story, and others diverted themselves at sundry frolicsome games. Squire Gamewell then said, 'Bid cousin Robin come hither, for I hear he is a brave little lad, and can shew us some pleasant tricks at gambols or wrestling.' Robin Hood then came in, and fresh pastimes were quickly begun; when strange to relate, tho' but fourteen years old, he beat every one at all kinds of sport, for his strength and his skill proved superior to all. His uncle, the squire, was right joyful to see this, and cried out; 'I vow and believe Robin, thou shalt go no more home. Stay here, my brave boy, and I will make thee my comrade and heir; thou shalt, from henceforth, have plenty of gold, and fifty good archers shall wait upon thee, and be ready at thy call.—My estate, when I die, shall be thine.'

Bold Robin accepted this offer with joy, and thus dwelt with his uncle many years at Gamewell Hall, where he learned the use of the bow, and practised till he became the most expert archer, and best marksman, in the country. — Then, whenever he saw a fit occasion, he and all his gallant men would resort to the forests and woods, to live in revelry and amusement, and chase the fat deer over the hills.

Thus liv'd Robin Hood
All day in the wood,
And at night made cheer,
With roast beef and strong beer.

ROBIN HOOD'S PROGRESS TO NOTTINGHAM;

Being an account of his adventure with the fifteen Foresters.

ROBIN HOOD was now about fifteen years old; in person tall and stout, and of a good countenance: in courage and strength few equalled him.

One day he determined to take a journey to Nottingham, hearing that the king had appointed a shooting-match in that town, to be disputed by the best archers. When he came thither, he happened to fall into company with fifteen stout foresters, who sat drinking and laughing together. 'What news? what news?' said bold Robin Hood, 'that you drink and talk so merrily?' The foresters, who despised him on account of his youth, answered roughly, 'We are come to win the king's prize, which we are resolved to carry off, in spite of all opposition, and will not be questioned by boys.' 'I have as good a bow as the best,' said Robin Hood, 'and will contest the prize with you.' 'We hold thee and thy bow in scorn,' said they: 'shall a strippling like thee bear a bow before the king's archers, that is not able to draw the string?' — 'I'll lay a bet of twenty crowns,' said Robin, 'that I win the king's prize, and hit the mark at an hundred yards distance:

Doubt not I'll make the wager good,
Or ne'er believe hold Robin Hood.'

The foresters, who never doubted but they should win the young boaster's money, cried out, 'We accept the

wager, and will lay thee twenty crowns that thou canst not hit the mark.'

When the archers were assembled, and the prize came to be disputed before the king's umpires and a great concourse of spectators, Robin Hood proved to be the conqueror, to the amazement of the whole company. The mark was a running hart, let loose from time to time, for the purpose; and when the other bowmen had tried their skill, Robin took his noble bow, and his well made arrows, and taking good aim, fairly hit the mark, at an hundred yards distance. The multitude shouted, and hailed the young victor with joy. 'The prize is mine,' said Robin Hood, 'I claim it; —the wager too is mine, give it me.' 'The prize is none of thine,' said the fifteen foresters, 'and the wager shall be none of thine. Take up thy bow insolent boy, and begone or we will break thy bones.' Robin Hood, full of rage, cried out, 'You said I was no archer, but you have found me one, and you now deny me my reward. I hope to requite you for this.'

He then took up his bow and departed, but having learnt which way the foresters must take on their return home, he repaired to the place where he had left his merry men, and, consulting together, they resolved to lie in ambush in the road. After a while they saw the foresters approaching, shouting and singing all the way they came, because they had brought off the king's prize; but when Robin Hood and his men presented themselves, in battle array, their mirth was quickly changed into terror and amazement. At first they made a shew of resistance, but finding the number of their adversaries to be more than treble their own, they threw down their arms, and begged for mercy. 'You said I was no archer,' cried Robin Hood; 'now say so again, and let him that chooses it fly for his life, and see if my arrows can overtake him.' 'We beg for mercy, in the name of the holy Virgin,' cried the foresters, 'lo! here is the prize that you won, and the wager of twenty crowns.' 'Well,' said Robin, 'as you submit quietly, I will grant you your lives, but you shall not escape without some reward for your deeds. From this time take warning, and give every one his due, for as long as you live you shall remember Robin Hood.' He and his men then stripped them of their clothes, leaving them no covering but their trowsers, and having cut off their hair and their ears,

daubed their faces with a mixture of yellow and red; afterwards they bound their hands, and tied a large pair of antlers on each of their heads, and in this most ridiculous state, drove them back into the town, telling them if they offered to return, they should not escape with their lives. As soon as they entered the streets, the whole place was in an uproar, and, what with the barking of an hundred dogs, the squalling of women, and hooting of boys and men, there was such an hubbub as never before had been known in the town of Nottingham.

Thus Robin won the noble prize,
And gain'd himself a name;
Then punish'd all his enemies,
Who mock'd his rightful claim.

ROBIN HOOD AND LITTLE JOHN;

Being an account of their first meeting, and how their acquaintance and friendship began, with their merry reception in Sherwood Bower.

WHEN bold Robin Hood was about twenty years old he happened to meet with a jolly stranger, whom he afterwards called Little John. This man, though called little, was a lusty young blade; his limbs were large, and his person seven feet high. Wherever he went, people quaked at his name, and he made all his enemies fly before him. 'Twas thus their acquaintance began:

Robin and his men had built, in Sherwood forest, a strong and secret bower, so artfully contrived and hidden among the woods, that none but themselves could find it out, and to which they retreated in case of need. Here Robin once continued fourteen days with his merry bowmen, and then he said to them: 'Tarry awhile in this grove, my brave men; we have had no sport for these many long days, therefore I will wander abroad a short way, to seek some amusement. But do you be attentive, and hear whenever I blow an alarm with my loud bugle horn, for by this means I will let you know if I want your assistance.'

After he had strayed some time near a brook, he espied a tall and lusty stranger coming towards him. They happened to meet on a long narrow wooden bridge, and neither

of them would give way to let the other pass. Robin Hood at length being enraged, drew an arrow from his quiver, and threatened to shoot at the stranger's breast. 'You dare not,' said the other, 'for if you offer to touch the string, I'll beat out your teeth, and tumble you into the brook. You see I have nothing but a staff in my hand, and none but a coward would offer to fight with weapons so different.' 'The name of a coward,' said Robin, 'I scorn; I will therefore lay aside my bow and arrows, and take a stout staff to prove thy manhood.' He then stepped to a thicket of trees, and chose him a good oaken staff, which, when he had done, he ran to the stranger, and thus merrily spoke:

Lo! here is my staff, it is lusty and tough,
Now thus on the bridge we will play,
He that knocks his foe in, all the glory shall win,
And then we will both go our way.

The stranger accepted the challenge, and the sport was quickly begun.—At first Robin gave the other such a stroke that it made his sides ring: the stranger then said, 'I must pay you for this, friend, and give you as good as you send, for as long as I am able to handle a staff, I scorn to die in your debt.' He then gave Robin so hearty a knock on the crown, that the blood ran trickling down to his ears. Robin now engaged more fiercely, and laid on his blows so thick and fast, that he made his adversary's coat smoke as if it had been all on fire; but the stranger waxing more furious and strong, at length gave Robin such a terrible side blow, that it quite beat him down, and tumbled him into the brook. Then in laughter he called out to his fallen foe, 'Prithee, where art thou now my good fellow?' 'Why, faith,' said Robin, 'I swim with the tide, as every man should do.'—He now swam along to the bank, and pulled himself out by a thorn, and then said to the conqueror: 'Thou art a brave soul, I will contend no longer with thee.'

He then took up his horn, and blew such a blast with it as made the hills echo all around. Presently they saw coming hastily down the hill side, a band of brave archers, clothed in a livery of green. They quickly came up to Robin Hood, and Will Stukely (their leader) cried out, 'Pray, what is the matter, good master? why, you seem wet to the skin!' 'No matter for that,' said Robin, 'the man that stands by, has, in fighting, tumbled me into the

brook.' 'If that be the case,' said his men, 'he shall not escape without a good ducking in the same stream.' 'Not so, my brave men,' said Robin Hood, 'he is a stout hearty fellow that fought me fairly.' 'My friend,' said he to the stranger, 'pray be not afraid, for no harm shall befall thee; all these are my bowmen, that come at my call, and if thou wilt live with me, and be one of them, thou shalt quickly put on such a dress as theirs; we will teach thee the use of the bow, and how to shoot the fat deer, for we live gloriously without any restraint, and fear not the laws.'

'Then here is my hand,' replied the stranger, 'I'll serve thee with a willing mind, for I perceive you are all brave hearty fellows. My name is John Little, I am a man of some skill, and at times will play my part well.'

'His name shall be altered,' said Will Stukely, 'I like not the sound of John Little, his name shall be called *Little John*.'

This motion pleased well, and as soon as they came to their bower in the wood, a great feast was prepared; two of their men shot each a young doe, and a cask of strong liquor was brought forth, with all kinds of the best provisions. This sweet little infant was then proposed to be baptized anew. He was about seven feet high, and perhaps a full ell round the waist. Robin Hood graced the christening with his presence. All his archers stood in a ring, and Will Stukely, who was godfather, took the sweet babe by the hand, and led him into the middle of the circle. 'This infant was formerly called John Little,' said he, 'the words I will transpose, and he shall be called *Little John*.' As soon as the words were spoken, they all with a shout made the elements ring, and shook Little John by the hand, calling him brother. Robin then took and clothed him in his livery of green, and gave him a curious long bow, with a quiver well stored with arrows. 'Thou shalt now be an archer,' said he, 'as good as any in the land, and range the forest with us. We never want either gold or silver, and live like squires upon the best of the land, sometimes in this bower, and sometimes at great Gamewell Hall; here we feast on good cheer, and are without care for the morrow.'

Thus their new comrade, as long as he lived, though taller and stouter than any other of Robin Hood's men, went always by the name of Little John.

Thus liv'd Little John and bold Robin Hood,
No archers in England were ever so good.

ROBIN HOOD'S WEDDING;

*Being a relation of his first meeting with Clorinda, queen of
Tidbury Wake, with their courtship and marriage.*

(As sung by the fiddler of Barnsdale, who played at the Wedding.)

At length Robin Hood had increased his stout band,
Till an hundred brave men were his guard;
They pleas'd to obey, and he proud to command,
And proud to bestow a reward.

One day when he tarry'd at Great Gamewell Hall,
Along with his uncle the squire,
Little John was his page, and attended his call,
Said Robin, now hear my desire :

Go, fetch me my arrows and longest stout bow,
The weather is pleasant and clear,
And then to the forest of Sherwood I'll go,
To revel and chase the fat deer.

When Robin was come to his bow'r in the wood,
He winded his loud bugle horn,
And fifty good archers before him soon stood,
And joyfully bade him good morn.

O where are your comrades? said Robin so gay,
For still I want forty and three;
Then said a bold archer, lo, yonder they stay,
All under the *Green Oaken Tree*.

They tarry'd awhile in the green shady grove,
And then they beheld a gay sight;
A charming young damsel that way chanc'd to rove,
Clorinda, the shepherds' delight.

Her motion was graceful, her shape just and true,
Her countenance free from all pride,
One hand held a bow, made of well-season'd yew,
And a quiver hung down by her side.

Her hair fell in ringlets, and added fresh grace,
 To aid her fair bosom and eyes,
 Both wisdom and modesty shone in her face,
 And filled Robin Hood with surprise.

O whither, fair damsel, said he, do you steer,
 A course so unusual to take:
 She answer'd, I'm going to kill a fat deer,
 For to-morrow is Tidbury Wake.

Then answer'd bold Robin, fair maid be my guest,
 And tarry in yonder green bower,
 And soon my brave men, while you sit down to rest,
 Shall put what you want in your power.

So onwards they went, when around a small wood,
 An hundred fat deer they espy'd,
 She mark'd out the fattest that near enough stood,
 And shot him just through the left side.

I swear, said bold Robin, who smil'd at the sight,
 I ne'er saw a woman like thee;
 And none, if they travel from morning till night,
 Thy equal in England shall see.

Let us step to my bower and discourse awhile there,
 You must taste a bold forester's meat—
 So when they arriv'd they partook of good cheer,
 And both seem'd to relish the treat.

There was hot roasted ven'son, delicious and good,
 Cold pies, and nice cheese-cakes in store,
 And besides Little John, round the table there stood
 Stout waiters at least half a score.

Good sir, said Clorinda, your name I request;
 He answer'd, 'tis bold Robin Hood;
 Squire Gamewell's my uncle, but what I like best,
 Is to dwell in the merry green wood.

Here I meet with no strife, and from care am quite free—
 You live a sweet life, she reply'd—
 But O! said bold Robin, how sweet would it be
 If Clorinda would be but my bride.

She blush'd at that motion, and hung down her head,
 And seem'd at a loss what to say;
 Bold Robin ne'er left her, But press'd her to wed,
 And courted her all that long day.

At length she consented, and modestly cry'd,
 I yield you, kind sir, all my heart,
 Let us send for a parson, with joy he reply'd,
 And be marry'd before you depart.

But she answer'd him sweetly, it cannot be so,
 For I'm going to Tidbury Wake,
 And if you, gentle sir, will along with me go,
 A welcome sweet guest you will make.

I consent, he reply'd;—Little John, hear my will,
 Bring hither Clorinda's shot deer,
 And six brace of bucks let my bowmen go kill,
 And dress them to-morrow all here.

So then they set out, with the deer that was shot,
 But scarcely had gain'd the right road,
 When four lusty keepers advanc'd to the spot,
 And bid them deliver their load.

No faith, said bold Robin, I scorn your demand,
 Let any man touch it that dare;
 Little John, pray come hither, and lend me thy hand,
 We'll soon let them know who we are.

The keepers fought stoutly, but Robin and John,
 At length made them beg for their lives;
 Robin then gave them quarter, and bid them begone,
 And sent them all home to their wives.

Now when they arrived at fair Tidbury town,
 All the people look'd merry and glad,
 Some singing, some dancing, some ran up and down,
 And shouted as if they were mad.

Some were playing at backwords, or wrestling, or talking,
 Some brandish'd their cudgels and crooks,
 And twenty young couples together were walking,
 Who gave one another kind looks.

But bold Robin Hood, and Clorinda, and John,
Went to dinner along with the best,
Where feasting, and drinking, and pastimes went on,
And every one vented their jest.

Clorinda and Robin agreed then to wed,
And presently settled the plan ;
Each guest drank their healths, and the damsels all said,
Robin Hood was a brave gallant man.

So they sent for a parson, without more delay,
He came, and he bade them take hands ;
He took out his mass-book, and read it away,
And join'd them in wedlock's soft hands.

The bride was deck'd out in her richest array,
As bright as gay colours could make ;
The lasses press'd round her, their homage to pay,
And own'd her the queen of the Wake.

Next day, hand in hand, Robin Hood and his bride
Set out for their green shady bow'r ;
The birds sung with pleasure along the road side,
And indeed 'twas a brave joyful hour.

When Robin was come to the merry green wood,
He long'd his brave archers to see ;
Then said a bold bowman see where they are stood,
All under the Green Oaken Tree.

Then his men (all in ranks) with a garland advanc'd,
With which they adorn'd the bride's head ;
The music struck up, and they sung and they danc'd,
Till the bridegroom and bride were in bed.

Tom Philpot (the fiddler of Barnsdale) was there,
And many an harper right good ;
Who, when they return'd, spread abroad far and near,
The wedding of bold Robin Hood.

NOTE.—Soon after Robin Hood's wedding, his uncle, squire Gamewell, died, and Robin became heir to his estate ; but living in too extra-

vagant a style, and entertaining all comers in a generous manner, with the expence of maintaining so many archers in his train, after a while he spent all that he was worth, and then he and his men were obliged to live entirely in the woods, and support themselves by killing the king's deer, and levying contributions on the rich.

Here we see the folly of people's transgressing the rules of prudence, and living beyond their income. Extravagance is the ruin of thousands, and brings many a well-meaning person to an untimely end. 'Twas this that brought Robin Hood, though rich, to poverty, and poverty led him to break the laws, and use unwarrantable means to support himself, by preying upon his neighbours, and following robbery and violence. Had he kept within the bounds of discretion, and been contented with a moderate attendance and style of living, he might have lived rich and respectable, instead of becoming a violator of the laws of his country, and an outcast of society.

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BUTCHERS;

With his comical behaviour to the Sheriff of Nottingham.

ONE day, as Robin Hood was taking his walk through the forest, he happened to behold a jolly butcher, sitting between his hampers, on a stout young mare, going to sell his meat at market. 'Good morrow, honest fellow,' said Robin: 'prithee what food hast thou in thy hampers, and from whence comest thou? for I seem to have a liking to thy company.' The butcher replied, 'No matter from whence I come, master, nor where I dwell; you may see that I am a butcher, and am going to Nottingham to sell my meat.' 'Wilt thou sell thy meat to me?' said Robin Hood; 'tell me the price of it altogether; also what thou wilt have for the mare that carries thee, and all thy other accoutrements; we will not differ about the cost, for I would fain be a butcher for once.' 'The price of my meat, and the price of my mare,' said the butcher, 'shall be twenty good marks; and I think they are nothing too dear.' 'Twenty marks then I will give thee,' said Robin, 'come, see if my money be good, and let me mount thy bonny mare, for I long to exercise my new trade.'

Robin now set out to Nottingham to begin his butcher's trade; and when he came thither took up his inn next door to the Sheriff's house. When other butchers began to open their shops, he opened his; but was at a loss how to sell his meat, being so young a butcher; however he was deter-

mined not to be undersold, and therefore found customers plenty. When the other butchers could not sell a joint, Robin's trade went on briskly, and no butcher could match him; for he sold more meat for one penny than others could do for five. He sold his meat so fast, and so free, that the butchers of Nottingham were at a stand and studied to know who this bold fellow was. 'Surely,' said they, 'he is some prodigal, that has sold his father's land, and is thus sporting away the money.' The butchers then stepped up to bold Robin to get acquainted with him. 'Come brother,' said they, 'we are all of one trade, let us go and dine together; the Sheriff has provided a treat for the butchers to-day, and you must go with us.'—'Agreed,' said bold Robin, 'may that butcher be hanged that can deny the request of his brethren.' Now when they were come to the Sheriff's house, the dinner was soon placed on the table, and Robin Hood was the only man that must say grace; accordingly he thus began:

May God bless us all, and supply us with food,

And bless all our kindred and race;

May our cups be well fill'd, and our wine be right good,

And thus I will finish my grace.

'Come bring us a cup of sack,' said jolly Robin, 'and let us be merry while we stay; if it were at my inn, I vow I would pay all the reckoning, if it cost me five pounds.'

For wine and good cheer

Can be never too dear.

'This is a mad blade,' said the butchers, 'that has melted his land into silver and gold, and now melts his money into wine.' The Sheriff, who thought to take advantage of his prodigal disposition, then said to him: 'Hast thou any cattle or horned beasts to sell, my good fellow! if thou hast I would fain buy them of thee.'—'Yes, that I have, master Sheriff,' said Robin; 'I have eight or ten score of horned beasts, that I long to have sold, and they are fat and fair; I have also an hundred acres of fertile free land; and if you choose to come and buy, I can give you as good a title to it as my father gave to me.'

The Sheriff then saddled his dapple-grey horse, and set out with Robin Hood to behold his horned cattle and his land, taking with him three hundred pounds in gold, to

complete his bargain. When they came to Sherwood forest, the Sheriff began to be apprehensive of some danger, and trembled for fear, saying, 'Heaven defend us from a wondrous bold man that is called Robin Hood, who plays a thousand wicked pranks in this country, and empties the pockets of every rich man he meets.' They had not gone much farther before they beheld an hundred head of good fat deer, that came tripping along their road; and then Robin Hood cried out, 'Look here, master Sheriff, behold my herd of horned beasts; how like you their colour and their make? they seem fat and fair to the eye.' 'What dost thou mean, fellow?' said the Sheriff; 'I wish I was again safe out of this forest, for I like not thy company.'— 'Then will you not buy?' said Robin Hood: 'however, since you came hither to buy my cattle, you must pay, whether you take them or not.' He then put his horn to his mouth, and blew a loud blast with it. Quickly Little John and his company appeared, and said, 'Pray what is your pleasure, good master?' Said Robin, 'I have brought the Sheriff of Nottingham to eat with you to-day, and I hope you will make him right welcome.' 'He is welcome, kind master,' said John; 'but I hope he will honestly pay for cooking.' Robin now bade the Sheriff dismount, and taking his mantle from his back, quickly told out of his portmanteau three hundred pounds; then he took him to his bower and feasted him well; afterwards he set him again on his dapple grey horse, and brought him back through the wood. 'Commend me to your wife at home, my kind sir,' said Robin; so he turned and went laughing away.

The Sheriff was greedy of gold,
And thought that his guest wanted wit;
But Robin prov'd artful and bold:
Thus the biter is oftentimes bit.

ROBIN HOOD AND ALLEN ADALE;

With his generous behaviour to two distressed lovers.

As bold Robin Hood one day was standing in the forest just under the Green Oaken Tree, he espied a gallant young man, clothed in scarlet and white, as gay as a lark, who

came tripping along the road, singing a roundelay. He seemed in great haste and quickly was gone out of sight. — Next morning as Robin Hood stood in the same place, he beheld the same young man coming over the plain, but his carriage was totally changed; he now passed slowly along, and his head hung drooping upon his breast. The scarlet that he wore the day before, he had cast quite away; and every step that he went, fetched a deep sigh, as if his very heart was broke. Little John stepped towards him, to know who he was, but when the young man saw him coming he bent his bow, and said, 'Stand off, stand off, thou bold forester; what wouldst thou have with me?' 'You must come before our master,' he replied, 'who is standing under the Green Oaken Tree; come without delay and no harm shall befall thee.' And when he was come before Robin Hood, Robin said to him, 'Hast thou any money to spare for my merry men and me? come answer without fear.' 'Indeed, I have no money to spare,' said the young man; 'I have but five shillings and a little gold ring, and this ring I have kept for these seven long years, to present to my bride on my wedding-day. Yesterday I should have married the maid that I love; but she was chosen to be an old knight's wife and taken from me by force: therefore my very heart is nearly broken.'

'What is thy name,' said Robin Hood; 'My name's Allen Adale,' said he; 'Then what wilt thou give me,' said Robin Hood, 'to help thee to thy true love again, and deliver her into thy hands?' 'I have neither land nor gold,' said the young man, 'but I will bless thee for ever, and be thy true humble servant as long as I live.' 'How many miles, then,' said Robin, 'is thy true love from hence?' — 'Only five little miles,' replied the young man: 'but if we go not soon we may be too late.'

Robin Hood then set out, with fifty stout archers in his train, nor did they stop till they came near to the church where Allen should have been married. He then concealed his men, while he boldly went into the church. 'What dost thou here, bold man?' said the bishop. 'I am a merry harper,' said Robin Hood, 'as good as any in the north.' — 'O welcome, then,' said the bishop, 'for that music is my delight.' Presently there came in a wealthy old knight, leading a young damsel by the hand, of a fair, though sorrowful countenance, dressed all in glittering attire. 'This

is not a fit match,' said bold Robin Hood: 'the bridegroom is too old and uncomely; but since I am here, and the bride is prepared, she shall now choose her mate herself.'

Robin then applied the horn to his mouth, and blew twice or thrice with it; at the sound of which, his fifty stout bowmen came leaping over the church-yard, and the first man was Allen Adale, who gave bold Robin his bow. 'This is thy true lover,' said Robin Hood; 'come take her, and be married before we depart.' 'That never shall be,' said the bishop; 'thy speech is too bold, and the law of our country requires that they be three times asked in the church.' Robin Hood then pulled off the bishop's rich apparel, and put it upon Little John, and made him appear like a priest. 'By my faith,' said Robin, laughing, 'that clothing becomes thee well; thou now lookest like a man and a bishop; therefore begin thy office.' When Little John went to the desk, the people began to laugh, and seemed to enjoy the joke; he asked them full seven times over to make the banns sure, lest three times should not be enough. 'Who gives this fair maid to Allen Adale for a wife?' said Little John. 'I give her to him with all my heart,' said Robin Hood, 'and he that shall dare to oppose, or take her away from her spouse shall buy her dearly.'

Thus ended this merry wedding: the bride became cheerful and gay, and the new married pair returned with Robin Hood to Sherwood bower; when with love and delight they confirmed their choice, and spent the day in feasting and merriment.

May faithful lovers ever meet success,
And always find a helper in distress.

ROBIN HOOD AND THE GOLDEN ARROW;

Being an account of the plan laid by the Sheriff of Nottingham to take Robin Hood and his men, and how they outwitted him.

THE Sheriff of Nottingham being greatly enraged at the trick that was put upon him by Robin Hood, and hearing of his further exploits, in breach of the law, resolved to be revenged, if possible, and threatened to take him by force

or deceit, and hang him and his men without mercy. He now set out on a journey to London, to inform king Richard of his loss, and consult what was best to be done. When the king heard his story, he laughed heartily at the adventure of the horned cattle, and said to him, 'Art thou not my Sheriff, and the executioner of the laws? The law is in force, therefore go and do thy best, against those that injure thee. Begone to thy post, and devise some plan to take these rebel foresters, either by force or guile.' Away went the Sheriff full of shame and vexation, and in his way back, thought of the king's words, and how he might devise some happy scheme to catch bold Robin and his men. At last he imagined that if he appointed a prize of archery, to be won by the best marksman, Robin and his men, who were so expert at the game, would not fail to come, and be ambitious of showing their skill. This plan he approved, and appointed a day when the archers should meet; the prize being a curious rich arrow: its shaft was silver and its head made of gold. The tidings of this shooting match soon came to Robin Hood, as he sat in the green shady bower, and he said to his merry men, 'Come, prepare your stout bows, my brave comrades, and let us set out to behold the gallant sport at Nottingham.' Then stepped forth a bold young man, and said, 'Master, for once be ruled by me, and let us not venture out of the forest; for I am well informed by a trusty friend that resides in the town, that this shooting match is but a trick to beguile us into the Sheriff's hands.' 'Thy speech smells of cowardice,' said Robin, 'and I like not thy proposal; let it happen as it may, I determine to show my skill at this trial of archery.' 'Now listen to me,' said Little John; 'it would be a shame to remain here, while such pastime goes on, but that we may not be tricked, let us put on disguise: our mantles and dress all of Lincoln green, we will throw aside, and array ourselves in divers colours, so that we may not be known: one shall wear white, another red, one yellow, and another blue; thus we will go, one by one, to the town, and exercise our bows without suspicion.'

To this they all agreed, and sallied forth with firm and stedfast hearts, to have a good bout with the Sheriff and his archers. When they arrived at Nottingham, they mixed themselves among the crowd, and kept but little together. The Sheriff then looked round about amongst eight or nine

hundred men, and seeing none dressed like Robin Hood's men, was greatly disappointed at the sight he desired. 'If Robin Hood and his men were here,' said some, 'they would bear away the prize from all; so expert and skilful are they at the sport.' 'Ay,' said the Sheriff, 'I verily hoped he would have been here; but though people say he is bold, he dared not to appear, so great is his caution, and fear of daggens.' Robin heard this discourse, and when the Sheriff taxed him with fear, it vexed him to the heart. 'It shall not be long,' thought he, 'before thou shalt know that Robin Hood has been here, and has won thy prize.'

When the archers began their sport, some cried, 'Well done, blue coat;' some praised the brown, and some the yellow coat; but at last another in red began to shoot, and used his bow with such skill, that the people cried out, 'The red will beat them all; huzza! for the brave archer in red.' His aim was so steadfast and sure that he hit the mark at every shot, and won the prize from all rivals. As soon as he was declared to be the conqueror, the people rent the air with their shouts, and cried, 'Long live the brave archer in red.' Little did they imagine that this archer was Robin Hood (though it was he). While the Sheriff and his men extolled his skill to the utmost, and would have had him remain with them; but Robin then took his leave, bearing the golden arrow in his hand, and left the town; all his men departing one by one, in the same manner that they came in. When they were all again assembled in the *Green Wood*, they related to each other what pleasant sport they had met with, and how they had employed themselves while they remained in the town. Said Robin Hood, 'All my care is now how to inform the Sheriff who it was that brought away his prize, for I know it will grieve his very heart, and make him nearly run mad.' At last they contrived a fit way, and in the dead of the night, shot an arrow over the wall into the town, on which was stuck a letter addressed to the Sheriff. In the morning the letter was brought to him, and when he had read its contents, he raved and fretted like a wild boar, and almost went mad with vexation.

May those who seek to cheat their neighbour,

In hopes to share his spoils,

Thus (like the Sheriff) lose their labour,

And curse their foolish toils.

ROBIN HOOD AND HIS KINSMAN;

Showing how he met and fought with a stranger, who afterwards proved to be his Cousin Scarlet.

As Robin walked about in the forest one day, he met with a comely young man, dressed in a doublet of silk, with scarlet hose, travelling boldly along with a stout bow in his hand. A herd of fat deer happened to be feeding not far distant, which, when the stranger saw, he bent his bow, and shot the best of them through the heart. 'Well shot, well shot,' said Robin Hood, 'thy aim was good and sure; I like a bold archer well; and if thou wilt be one of my comrades, and live in my bower, I will treat thee with noble entertainment, and pay thee well besides.' 'Go talk to thy grandame,' said the stranger, 'and make no such wild offers to me, or else I shall use thee somewhat rudely.' 'Thou hadst better be quiet,' said Robin, 'for if thou shouldst offer to make an assault, thou wilt dearly repent of the deed; my arm is not weak, and thou mayst see that I carry a bow; besides, though I am now alone, should I blow an alarm with my loud bugle horn, I should quickly have at my command an hundred brave men.' 'I defy all thy power,' said the other, 'and if thou offerest to touch thy horn, my good broad sword shall cut it in two, and strike thee to the dust.' Bold Robin Hood then bent his stout bow, and stood ready to shoot at his foe. The stranger also took his strong bow, and as readily stood on his guard. 'Prithee, let us hold our hands,' said Robin Hood, 'for if we attempt to shoot, one of us must infallibly die; let us now lay aside our bows, and try each other's skill with bucklers and good broad swords;

*And he that first gives way
Shall lose the day.*

'As I live,' said the stranger, 'I will not fly a foot, and will soon give thee enough of the sport.' These rivals in skill then fought stoutly and boldly, and many a hard blow resounded upon their bucklers. They aimed their strong blows above and below, from the head to the feet, but neither of them could make the other give way. Robin Hood at

length gave the stranger such a mighty stroke that it made the fire fly from his eyes, and almost deprived him of his senses. 'I hope to give thee a blow,' said the stranger, 'that shall shame all the rest, and put an end to the fray.' Then presently taking good aim with his sword, he struck Robin upon the head with such force, that the blood soon appeared, and ran trickling down his cheeks. 'By my faith,' said Robin Hood, 'I must now beg for quarter; prithe, my brave fellow, tell me who thou art, and what is thy name, for I love and respect a brave man.' The stranger answered, 'I was born and bred in the town of Maxfield, and my name is Gamewell; I am forced to fly from home and to hide myself for having killed my father's steward, who had falsely accused me; and I came to this forest to seek a bold uncle of mine, who goes by the name of Robin Hood.' 'Art thou then a cousin of bold Robin Hood's?' answered he, 'had I known it before, our fight would have been sooner done.' 'On my life,' said the stranger, 'I am his first kin, and son to his mother's second brother, who now lives at court with the king, and for gallant deeds he performed in Palestine, he is soon to be made a noble peer.' When Robin heard this he embraced him with great joy, and soon let him know that he himself was his uncle Robin Hood. They then set out for the green shady bower, and met Little John by the way, who cried out, 'Prithee, dear master, where have you been, that you have tarried so long from home?' 'I met with this stranger,' said Robin, 'we have had a fight, and he has beaten me soundly.' 'Then let me try my skill with him,' said he, 'and see if he can beat me as well.' 'O no, O no, O no,' said Robin Hood, 'it must not be so Little John; for he is my kinsman, the son of my mother's own brother, and cousins I have no more. He shall be a bold archer of mine, my foreman next to thee, and his name shall now be called Will Scarlet. Thus I, Robin Hood, and thou Little John, and my kinsman Will Scarlet, shall have the command, and we will be three of the bravest foresters that are in the north country.

Will Scarlet and I, and brave Little John,
Will make our foes fly,
Be they twenty to one.

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD.

Robin Hood, in distress, changes clothes with an old woman, to escape from the bishop, whom he afterwards takes prisoner, and obliges him to sing mass.

ROBIN HOOD, and all his men, were now outlawed, because they had broken the forest laws, (which were very severe,) and had killed the king's fat deer.

As Robin walked out one fine summer's day, when the fields were pleasant and green, and the birds sang sweetly in the bushes, he was tempted to wander beyond the skirts of the forest, far away from his bower; and as he was thinking of going back, he was espied by the proud bishop of Hereford, who was passing along with a grand company. 'O what shall I now do?' said Robin to himself. 'If the bishop should take me, I shall be hanged without mercy.' Then Robin turned nimbly about, and ran with full speed to the house of an old woman, whom he knew: 'Good woman,' said Robin, 'I pray you let me in, for yonder is the bishop and all his men, and if I am taken, I must die.' 'Why, who art thou,' said the old woman, 'that comest hither in such a fright?' 'I am Robin Hood,' he replied; 'canst thou not recollect me?' 'I think I now do,' said the old woman, 'and if thou art even Robin Hood, I will provide for thy safety, and hide thee from the proud bishop and his company; for I remember one Saturday night, when I was in great want, thou didst bring me both money and clothes; a good action is never lost, and thy kindness I will now repay.' 'Then give me thy gown, and thy female attire,' said Robin, 'and put thou on my livery of green: give me also thy distaff and spindle, and take my arrows and bow.'

When Robin Hood was thus arrayed, he went forth without fear, and returned to his men in the wood. When Little John saw him thus dressed, coming over the forest, he cried, 'Behold, who is yonder, that seems approaching this way; the old woman looks like a witch, and I will send an arrow to meet her.' 'Hold thy hand, hold thy hand,' said Robin Hood, 'I am thy master in disguise, and this habit I

was forced to put on to escape from a strong enemy, who had me in chase.'

Now, in the mean time, the bishop went to the old woman's house, and cried with a loud furious voice, 'Bring out that traitor Robin Hood, that I may take him along with me, and make him pay the forfeit of all his bad deeds.' The old woman then came out, dressed like Robin, and the bishop placed her upon a grey steed, while he rode laughing along for joy, that he had seized upon bold Robin Hood. But as they were riding through the forest, in which their road lay, the bishop espied an hundred tall men, stout and brave, coming out of the wood, with their arrows and bows in their hands. 'Oh, who are all these bowmen?' said the bishop; 'and who is that man that leads them towards us so boldly?' 'In good faith,' said the old woman, 'I think it is bold Robin Hood.' 'Then who art thou?' said the bishop, trembling with fear. 'I am only a poor old woman, proud bishop,' said she; 'hast thou any occasion for me now?' 'Oh! I am lost!' said the bishop, 'unhappy am I that I lived to behold this day!' Then he turned about his horse to escape, but Robin Hood's men intercepted his flight, and brought him to their master, who tied him fast to a tree, and send his bold archers to convoy the bishop's gay attendants out of the forest.

Robin now took his mantle, and spread it upon the ground, and out of the bishop's full bags soon told two hundred pounds in glittering gold. 'Now let the proud bishop depart,' said Robin; 'and think himself easily used that he can escape safe and sound.' 'Not so, my dear master,' said Little John; 'I vow and protest that before he departs he shall sing mass to us.' Robin Hood then took the bishop by the hand, and placing him upon the stump of a tree, made him tune his voice, and sing a full mass to all the company; afterwards they brought him through the wood, and having set him upon his horse, with his face towards the tail, they charged him for ever after to pray for Robin Hood, and putting the tail in his hand, bid him begone.

Thus the bishop who nearly had caught,
And threatened to hang Robin Hood,
At last found himself at a fault,
And was forc'd to sing mass in the wood.

THE KING AND ROBIN HOOD.

*King Richard in disguise visits Robin Hood, and contracts a
friendship for him.*

KING Richard hearing of the feats
Perform'd near Barnsdale wood,
His mind was bent with full intent
To see bold Robin Hood.

Then with a dozen of his lords
To Nottingham he rode ;
Arriving there, he found good cheer,
And made a short abode,

But having staid a while in vain
To see him, now in doubt,
He and his train set out again
To find bold Robin out.

Disguis'd like monks they rode along,
Quite down to Barnsdale vale,
Where Robin Hood, in order stood,
Their persons to assail.

The king was higher than the rest,
And Robin, thro' the crowd,
Took him for one that he had known,
An abbot, rich and proud.

He seiz'd the bridle of his horse—
Pray abbot, stop, he cry'd ;
I'm bound to rue such knaves as you,
That live in pomp and pride.

But we are servants of the king,
Said then the king severe ;
And on my word, our royal lord
This morning sent us here.

God bless the king, said Robin Hood,
And all that are his friends ;
And may all those who prove his foes
Soon meet untimely ends.

Then you are one, reply'd the king,
A traitor to his will,
You break his laws, without a cause,
And rob and plunder still.

You say not right, said Robin Hood,
The charge I must deny ;
And was not you his servant too,
I'd tell you that you lie.

I never harm'd a maid or youth,
A widow or a wife ;
I ne'er oppose, nor injure those
Who live an honest life.

I never wrong the husbandman,
The lab'rer, or the poor ;
The tradesman too, that's just and true,
May live from me secure.

But wicked lords, and slothful priests,
Bishops and monks, I spite,
And those that give their minds to live
On other people's right.

For slothful priests and haughty monks
Now bear too great a sway ;
They oft oppress, without redress,
And make this land their prey—

But since the king, said Robin Hood,
Himself has sent you here,
Pray stop an hour, and in my bower,
Partake of our good cheer.

The king was fill'd with doubtful dread,
And all his lords beside ;
They thought with fear, what kind of cheer
Bold Robin might provide.

Then Robin led them thro' the wood,
And brought them to his bower,
And there with wine, and dainties fine,
They spent a joyful hour.

I treat you well, said Robin Hood,
For good king Richard's sake ;
Had you more gold than e'er was told,
I'd not a penny take.

For when I meet an honest soul,
I never think of wealth—
Come bring more wine, for I design
To drink the king's good health.

That health they pledg'd with one accord,
And drank with free consent :
For their regale, two casks of ale,
And three of wine, were spent.

Bold Robin's men, all dress'd in green,
Appear'd before him then ;
'Tis, thought the king, a comely thing,
To see such gallant men.

And when they came to Robin Hood,
Each bowman bent his knee,
With faithful hearts, they play'd their parts,
So humble, yet so free.

Now bend your bows, said Robin Hood,
And let your arrows wing ;
Show sport as good, as if you stood
In presence of the king.

Such noble sport they then display'd,
And shot so bold and true,
The strangers gaz'd, and stood amaz'd,
Their matchless deeds to view.

The king then said to Robin Hood,
Could I thy pardon bring,
Art thou inclin'd, with all thy mind,
To serve thy rightful king?

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Yes, answer'd he ; and now I swear,
Could you my pardon bring :
I'm well inclin'd with heart and mind,
To serve my gracious king.

The king was mov'd with Robin's words,
And felt a sweet surprise ;
He then declar'd the king appear'd
Before him in disguise :

I am, said he, thy sov'reign king,
I also am thy friend ;
Pardon I give, and bid thee live,
And none shall now contend.

Then Robin fell upon his knees,
To pay the due respect ;
King Richard cries, My friend arise,
I owe thee no neglect.

Come, go with me to Nottingham,
And go with me to court :
I'll raise thee high in dignity,
And grant thee good support.

The king then went to Nottingham
With Robin and his train,
And shouted loud, which made the crowd
Suppose the king was slain.

The sheriff too, was filled with dread,
And thought without a doubt,
That Robin then, with all his men,
Was come to drive them out.

The people hid themselves for fear,
But when the truth was known,
It made them sing, God save the king,
The town is still our own.

Then said the sheriff, full of wrath,
I hate that Robin Hood,
For he too bold once took my gold,
And trick'd me in the wood.

Oh, Oh ! said Robin, with a smile,
Remember you that jest ?
If I trick'd you, you'd tricks in view,
Tho' mine succeeded best.

Good sheriff, let us now be friends,
And treat us with a dinner ;
If truth was told, tho' I'm too bold,
You'd prove as great a sinner.

The sheriff thought it best to yield,
And took them all to dine ;
The king was there with many a peer,
And lords and ladies fine.

Next day to London they repair'd,
To grace king Richard's court ;
Where Robin Hood, in favour stood,
And found a sure support.

At last, when good king Richard died,
And England mourn'd the hour,
With all his men he went again
To seek his shady bower.

ROBIN HOOD AND THE TWO PRIESTS.

Robin meets with two Priests, whom he desires to pray for money, and thus obtains a great deal of gold.

ONE day, when Robin Hood was inclined to have a frolic, he disguised himself like a friar, with hood, beads, and gown, and went out of the forest, with a glad and resolute heart. He walked along the highway about two or three miles, and then he beheld two lusty young priests, arrayed all in black, who were riding towards him in haste, " Blessings be upon you," cried he, " do pray take some pity on my misery, for I have been all the long day without any meat or bread, nor have tasted so much as a cup of small beer : Oh, cross my hand with a single groat for the Virgin Mary's sake." " By our holy dame," said the priests, " we

have never a penny to give; for this very morning we were robbed of all our money, and could save nothing.' 'I am much afraid,' said Robin Hood, 'that you do not speak the truth, therefore dismount, and let me just search: for if you have any money left, I must have it before you depart, my wants are so pressing upon me.' When the priests heard him speak thus, they endeavoured to ride away in a hurry; but Robin stood in their way with a long staff, and quickly laid hold of them both, and pulled them down from their seats. 'Oh, spare us, good friar,' cried the priests, 'and suffer us to go on our way.' 'You say that you have no money,' said he; 'therefore, without delay, fall down upon your knees, and we will all pray for some; for if you are good and holy men, heaven will grant your desires.'—The priests could not refuse this, so they kneeled down and prayed with mourning voices. Sometimes they wrung their hands, and sometimes they wept and tore their hair, with faces full of sorrow and despair. Now when they had continued on their knees an hour or more, Robin Hood cried, 'Let us now see, my friends, what money heaven hath sent to serve our needs, and we will all be sharers of what we can find.' The priests put their hands into their pockets, but said they could find no money. 'We will search one another,' said Robin, 'and then we may have better success.' He then took the trouble of searching them both, and presently found five hundred pieces of gold, which he took and told over upon the ground. 'Here is a brave show,' said Robin, 'I have not seen such a plentiful store for a long while. Come, we will divide the treasure among us, and you shall have such a share as you deserve, because you prayed so heartily.' He then gave them fifty pounds each, and kept the rest for himself; while the priests stood with woful countenances, and sighed from the bottom of their hearts, but durst not utter a word.

They then supposed that they might depart without further molestation, and were going to mount their steeds. 'Nay, stay a little longer,' said Robin, 'for I have a word or two yet to say. You must first swear by this holy spot of ground, that you will never more tell a lie, even though you suffer by the truth. The second oath that you must take is, to relieve all poor people in want, who ask for your charitable pence, without shutting your ears to their cries. The third oath that I require is, that you will never lead

maids astray, nor cast an evil eye upon other men's wives, And the last oath that you shall now take is, to pray always without dissembling, and with sincerity and truth, that your prayers may not turn to your own hurt; and let people know that you met with an holy friar to-day, who has given you much wholesome instruction, and whom you will remember as long as your live.'

The liar, a detested name,
Like these bad priests shall meet with shame,
And those who ne'er relieve the poor
Themselves shall suffer and implore.

ROBIN HOOD AND THE THREE YEOMEN.

Robin delivers three Yeomen from Nottingham gallows, who were going to be hanged for killing the king's deer.

As Robin Hood wandered about the fields one day, he met a fair lady who came weeping along the road, in great distress. 'Oh, why do you weep so pitifully,' said Robin, 'and what is the cause of your great distress?' 'I weep,' she replied, 'for the sorrowful fate of three brothers, the bravest and dearest of men, who are all condemned to die.' 'What church have they robbed,' said Robin, 'or what parish priest have they killed? or have they in treason been caught against their rightful king?' 'No church have they robbed,' the lady replied, 'no parish priest have they slain, nor have they in treason been caught against their rightful king.' 'Oh, what have they done then,' said Robin, 'to deserve so unhappy a fate?' 'Oh, wo is me!' said the lady, 'for my brothers must die, and only for killing the king's fallow deer.' 'They shall not die,' said bold Robin; 'therefore go your way quickly home, and I will hasten to Nottingham for the sake of your three hapless brothers.'

Robin Hood then set out to Nottingham, and in his way met with a poor beggar man, who came walking slowly and mournfully along the highway. 'What news, what news, my old man?' said Robin, 'what news dost thou bring from the town?' 'Oh! there is weeping and wailing in Nottingham town,' cried the old beggar man, 'for the sake

of three yeomen who are condemned to die, and they are all greatly beloved.'

The beggar had a tattered old coat upon his back, which was neither green, yellow, nor red, but some of every colour; and Robin Hood thought it would be no disgrace for once, to be in the beggar's dress. 'Come, pull off thy coat, my old beggar,' said he, 'and thou shalt put on mine, and thirty shillings besides I will give thee to buy bread and beer.'—When Robin was thus arrayed, away he went to the town, and when he came thither, he soon found the Sheriff and his men, and likewise the three sorrowful yeomen, who were going to die. 'One favour, one favour, I humbly beg,' said bold Robin to the Sheriff; 'that I may be the hangman when the three yeomen are to die.' 'Tis granted with free good will,' said the Sheriff; 'therefore go and prepare thyself for thine office, for they have but few hours to live.'

Robin Hood then returned to his brave band of archers, whom he brought and placed in ambush near the field where the gallows was fixed; afterwards going again to the Sheriff, the three yeomen were led to the appointed spot. 'Now begin thine office, my jolly hangman,' said the Sheriff, 'for these yeomen no longer must live; and thou shalt have all their good clothing, and all their money besides.' 'I will have none of their clothing,' said he, 'and will touch none of their money; but I will have three blasts with my loud bugle horn, that their souls may fly to heaven.'

Then Robin mounted the gallows, with his horn in his hand, and he made it sound loud and shrill, when quickly came marching over the field, an hundred and more of his faithful bowmen, all clothed in green. 'Whose men are all these,' said the Sheriff, 'that come marching so boldly this way?' 'These are all Robin Hood's men,' said he, 'and they are come to fetch me, and likewise to take the three yeomen, who are going to die.' 'Oh, take them, pray take them, without more ado,' said the Sheriff; 'for there is no man in all Nottingham, that can do the like of thee.'

The first small fault may be forgiven;
Man should forgive as well as heaven:
But heinous crimes should be abhorr'd,
And ought to meet their due reward.

ROBIN HOOD AND THE TINKER OF BANBURY.

IN summer time when the leaves were green, and birds sang merrily upon every tree, Robin Hood set out to Nottingham in disguise, and as he went along the road, he overtook a jolly tinker. Robin greeted him kindly; and after some discourse, said, 'Tell me whence thou comest, my jolly fellow, and in what town thou wast bred, for I hear there is sad news in Nottingham, and when thou knowest it, thou mayest not choose to go thither.' 'I come from Banbury,' said the other, 'where I was born and bred, and am a tinker by trade; now tell me the news thou hast heard.'—'My news is only this,' said Robin, 'two tinkers were yesterday set in the stocks for drinking ale and beer.' 'If that be all,' said the tinker, 'I value not your news a farthing; for in drinking good ale and beer, I am sure never to be outdone, and resolve to have my share; and if I may judge by your looks, you often take a good part.' 'Now,' said Robin Hood, 'tell me what news has come to thy ears, for as thou travellest from town to town, thou canst never be in want of good stories.' 'All the news that I lately have heard,' said the tinker, 'relates to a bold outlaw, who is called Robin Hood; the king has given out warrants to apprehend him, and I have one in my pocket to take him, whenever I can find him; and if thou canst tell me where he is, and wilt assist me to seize him, it will make us rich men, for a hundred pounds, or more, will be our reward.' 'Let me see the warrant,' said Robin, 'that I may know if it be good, and I will do the best that I can to assist thee in taking him this very night.' 'My warrant I shall not let thee see,' said the tinker, 'for I dare not trust it out of my hand, and if you will not tell me where this Robin Hood is to be found, I must seek him out, and take him myself.'

As soon as they came to Nottingham, they went to a good inn, and calling for strong ale and wine, the tinker drank so much, that he forgot what he had to do, so that at night Robin made haste away, taking the tinker's warrant, and left him in the lurch to pay all the reckoning. When the tinker awoke in the morning, and found that his comrade was gone, he called for the host, and said, 'I had a warrant from the king, that might have done me good, for it was to take a

bold outlaw that goes by the name of Robin Hood ; but now my warrant is stolen away from me, and I have not money enough to pay the score, for the man that came with me last night, is gone and fled away.' 'The man that you speak of,' said the host, 'was that same Robin Hood, who sometimes comes hither in disguise. I knew him right well, for he once saved my life from a cowardly foe, and as he does all the good that he can to the poor, and only spoils the wealthy and proud, I could not betray him.' 'Oh, had I but known that it was he,' said the tinker, 'I would have tried the strength of his arm ; but I will now go and seek him out, whatever befalls me ; therefore tell me what I have to pay, and I will leave my tools with thee, in pledge, till I return.'

The tinker then went his way, and soon learnt in the town that the only way to find out bold Robin, was to seek him in the parks, killing the king's deer. Away then he went, and made no delay till he found Robin Hood, chasing the deer through the woods. 'What bold knave is that,' said Robin Hood, 'that comes so freely here to hinder my sport.'—'No knave am I,' cried the tinker, 'and that you soon will know to your cost; which of us has done wrong, my crab-tree staff shall decide.' The tinker and Robin then fought manfully, and their fray lasted three hours or more, but at length the tinker thrashed Robin's bones so sore, that he made him cry out for peace. 'One favour I have to beg,' said Robin Hood, 'and I pray thee to grant it me.' 'The only favour that I will grant,' said the tinker, 'is to hang thee on a tree.' But while the tinker turned round, Robin blew his horn ; at the sound of which, Little John and Will Scarlet quickly appeared, and said, 'What is the matter, dear master, that you look so forlorn?' 'Here is a tinker standing by,' said Robin, 'that has thrashed my bones sore.' When they heard this they were going to seize him by the throat, but Robin said, 'Let our quarrel now cease, that henceforth we may be friends with the tinker, and he with us ; and if he will consent to be one of us, I will yearly give him fifty pounds, as long as he lives, which he may spend in the way he likes best.' So at last, the tinker consented, and went along with them to their bower, where he was entertained with good cheer, and taught the use of the bow.

The tinker now ranges the wood,
No archer more skillful and good.

ROBIN HOOD AND QUEEN CATHERINE;

Being an account of his famous archery, and the worthy exploits that he performed before the queen and court.

'ERE the present year shall be passed and gone,' said queen Catherine, once to herself, as she sat in her chamber, 'I will be thy friend, Robin Hood, and the friend of all thy bold archers.'

The queen called to her a comely young page, and said to him, 'I have a speedy errand for thee to perform at Nottingham, there make no delay to go thither, and when thou art arrived, search all the woods around, and inquire of every one thou mayest meet for some tidings of bold Robin Hood.'

And when this faithful page was come to Nottingham, he asked for an inn, and calling for a bottle of Rhenish wine, he drank a health to his lovely queen, wishing that he might speedily discover where bold Robin Hood resided. A jolly old yeoman chanced to sit by his side, who said, 'My comely page, pray declare what is thy business so far in the north country, for I perceive thou belondest to our gracious queen.' Then said the page, 'I will tell thee my business, and the cause of my journey so far in the north country; 'tis to inquire of all that I meet for some tidings of bold Robin Hood, and to learn the place of his abode.' 'To-morrow by break of day,' said the yeoman, 'I will saddle my horse, and show thee the place where bold Robin resides.'

And when the page was come before Robin Hood, he fell down upon his knee, and said, 'Queen Catherine has heard of thy noble exploits, and she greets thee well by me; she bids thee haste to London, without fear, for soon there will be performed such gallant sports and feats of arms as never yet were seen, and she has chosen thee to be her champion.' Then Robin took his mantle from his back, (a curious web of Lincoln green) and sent it by the messenger for a present to the queen, as an earnest of his duty and zeal in her cause. Soon after he set out with all his brave comrades, and it was a glorious sight to behold them riding along; for he clothed his men in a livery of lovely green, with black hats and white feathers all alike, and himself was dressed in bright scarlet, with costly trimmings. And when they were come

to London, and into the presence of the queen, Robin fell on his knees with due respect. 'Thou art welcome, Robin Hood,' said the queen, 'and so are all thy brave bowmen; for to-morrow our sports will begin. But king Henry must not know that thou art here, for his mind is not favourably disposed towards thee.'

On the morrow they repaired to the appointed spot, where all the gallant lords and ladies of the court were assembled to behold the sport. And the queen said, 'What are the wagers and the prizes of those that win?' Then answered the king, 'Three hundred tons of Rhenish wine, three hundred tens of good strong beer, with fifty golden cups to drink it out of, shall be my wager.' Then said the queen, 'And mine shall be three hundred of the fattest harts that run in Dallum woods, with silver chains around their necks, and fifty polished arrows tipped with gold; now see who wins the prize.' 'Oh, these are princely wagers,' said Robin Hood; 'come let us try our skill.'

The king's stout archers then led the game, and shot with cunning aim, so that the game hung in doubtful balance, as long as the courtiers and the knights contended; at length the king's bowmen inclined it to their side, and the ladies cried out with a shout, 'Madam, your game is gone.'—Then said the queen, 'Is there never a knight of the king's privy counsel that will now contend for me? Come hither Sir Richard Lee, for thou art a gallant knight, and thy pedigree is traced from Gower's blood. Come hither also to me, thou noble bishop of Hereford, and bet on my side.' 'By my silver mitre,' said the bishop, 'I will not bet a penny, for your's is a losing game. The king has famous archers, well known for valiant deeds, but madam, all yours are strangers, and have their skill to learn.' 'Then what wilt thou bet against us,' said Robin Hood, 'as thou seest our game to be worst.' 'All the money in my purse,' said the bishop, and he threw it on the ground. Robin also threw his bag upon the green, and Will Scarlet began to smile, saying, 'I know to whom this money must belong.'

The archers then again began, and the next best shot was the queen's. 'Tis now just three to three,' said the king, 'and the next three shots must win: now, madam, beware of your game.' Said Robin to himself, 'If the prize shall be thine, I will be reckoned no archer.' He then led the game, with his brave band of good yeomen, and himself

shot the mark through the head; next Clifton, one of his men, shot his arrow quite close to his master's, and Will Stukely was not much behind, for he sent his arrow within an inch of the ring, and finished the game at the shot. An universal shout then rent the air, and the prize was awarded to the queen and her skilful band of archers. Queen Catherine now fell on her knee to the king, and said, 'One favour my sovereign lord, I must beg, and I pray you to grant it me.' Then said the king, 'I grant thy request, be it whatever it will.' 'My party,' said the queen, 'shall have full forty days to return to their homes, and you shall be angry with none, let them be whoever they may, but all shall now be welcome at court.' Then turning around to her men she cried, 'Now welcome Robin Hood, and welcome Little John, and welcome every one that comes to aid my cause, for I will reward you well.' 'Is this then Robin Hood?' said the king; 'for I thought he had been slain long ago in the north.' 'Is this then Robin Hood?' said the bishop of Hereford, 'truly it seems to be him; and had I known that this bold outlaw had been here, I would not have betted a penny; for he took me prisoner one Saturday noon, and bound me fast to a tree, and made me sing a full mass to him and all his company.' 'And if I did,' said bold Robin Hood, 'thy mass I delighted to hear, and sent thee out of the wood safe and sound; now therefore let us be friends, and half of the gold that I have won of thee to-day, I will give to poor people in want, that their prayers may be offered for me and for thee.'

The king, and queen, and all the court,
 Assembled thus to see the sport,
 And gaz'd with wond'ring eyes;
 Though both sides boasted archers good,
 Yet none were skill'd like Robin Hood,
 Who gain'd the glorious prize.

ROBIN HOOD AND KING HENRY;

*Or the king's famous chase through the north in pursuit of
 Robin Hood.*

KING Henry, although he would not forfeit his word to the queen, when he promised safety to all her party of

friends, was yet greatly vexed that bold Robin Hood had won his prize, and was escaped from his hands. Soon after Robin's departure, the king set out from court in a furious and angry mind, and vowed he would chase him all through the land; in his progress he inquired of all he met for some tidings of this bold outlaw, and when he was come to Nottingham, he was told that Robin was then in the merry green wood. 'We will now see,' said he, 'if we cannot discover him there.' But when Robin Hood was told that the king had him in chase, he advised with his men what to do, and Little John said, 'Tis time to get away from hence, and seek out another abode.'

Then away they set out, and left the forest of Sherwood far behind, taking their hasty course through the wide county of York; but the king still pursued them with a loud alarm, and followed at their heels with mighty speed, although he could never get them in sight. Robin hasted along over the hills till he arrived at Newcastle, and there he abode a few hours; again he set out with all his bold men, and travelled without delay, till the strong town of Berwick appeared in sight, and the borders of Scotland were before them.

Now when the king found how swiftly Robin Hood and his men fled before him, and that he never could obtain a sight of them, he was grievously vexed, and vowed still to follow wherever they went, and never gave over the chase, till with his loud alarms, he had raised all the north, and had taken this flying band of outlaws.

'Come, again let us away,' said Little John, 'for we must not stay long in one place. To Carlisle we will haste with our faithful company, and so on till we arrive at Lancaster.'—From Lancaster they still went forward and after a while entered Chester; whither king Henry pursued, but yet came too late, for Robin and his men durst not remain in that place, for fear of some treachery.

'At length,' says Robin, 'Let us act with bold and cunning skill, and hasten up to London, and see our gracious queen; for perhaps we may there be more safe. She may be pleased to behold us, and perhaps shield our lives from the king's furious hate.' And when Robin came before queen Catherine, he fell upon his knee, and said, 'If it please your highness, I am come hither to speak with our sovereign the king.' Then answered the queen, 'King Henry

set out long ago, to search after thee in the forest of Sherwood; for when he departed, I heard him declare, he would go and fetch bold Robin Hood.' 'Then fare you well, my gracious queen,' said Robin, 'for if I meet death, or if I meet life, I must haste away to the forest of Sherwood, to find the king, and see what his will is with me.'

Now as soon as king Henry came home, weary and vexed in mind, he heard that Robin Hood had lately been at court; which filled him with shame and great surprise. 'Oh, welcome, my sovereign lord,' said the queen, 'I gladly behold you returned; for since you set out, Robin Hood has been here, and said that he greatly desired to see you. Now therefore let me ask one request, which is, that you will no more seek his life, since his heart is well affected towards you, and that you will now, for my sake, grant a pardon to him and to all his brave men.'

So wond'rous a coursing did never appear,
The king was the hunter and Robin the hare.

ROBIN HOOD AND WILL STUKELY.

Robin rescues Will Stukely (one of his men) from the Sheriff and his officers, who had taken him prisoner, and were going to hang him.

As Robin Hood one day sat under the Green Oaken Tree, tidings came to him, by a speedy and faithful messenger, that Will Stukely had been surprised by the Sheriff, and led to prison, having been basely betrayed by three persons that were hired to entrap him; but before the Sheriff's men could secure him, two of them were slain by his hand. He now was condemned to die, and was to be hanged on the morrow. When Robin Hood received this news, it grieved his very soul, and he and all his gallant men then swore that they would rescue their comrade, and bring him back, or else would die fighting for his sake. He presently clothed himself in scarlet array, and dressed all his men in green, making as goodly a show as ever was seen in the land, with every man a good broad sword, and every man a good yew bow. And when they came near to the strong castle in which Will Stukely was confined, Robin Hood said

to his men, 'I think it right to tarry awhile here in ambush, and send some person on to yonder pilgrim, that stands under the castle wall, to obtain some intelligence of our friend.' Then went a bold young man, and said to the pilgrim, 'Tell me, thou good old man, (if thou hast heard it said), when must Will Stukely die? for I am told he lies in prison here, and must lose his life, because he belonged to bold Robin Hood.' 'Alas!' said the old pilgrim, 'tis much too true, for Robin Hood and his men were ever kind to the poor, and never harmed the honest man, therefore they love him. To-day, this very day, must Will Stukely die; and yonder tall gallows is prepared for him. Oh, had his gallant master known of his fate, some rescue would have come ere now, for a few of his bold archers would have soon set him free.'

No sooner had this young man left the pilgrim, than the gates of the castle were opened wide, and Will Stukely came out, guarded on every side by the Sheriff's men.—Now, when he was come out into the plain, and saw that no relief appeared, he said to the Sheriff in a bold and gallant way, 'Now since I must certainly die, I beg you to grant me one request, for my noble master had never yet a man that suffered death in so shameful a way as to hang by the neck. Give me therefore a sword, and let me be unbound, and with thee and thy men I will fight till I lie dead on the field.' But the Sheriff refused his request, and swore that he should be shamefully hanged, and not be slain by the sword. 'Then do but unbind my hands,' said Will Stukely, 'and give me neither sword nor bow, and if I be hanged this day, may St. Peter deny me an entrance into heaven.' 'Hold thy peace,' said the Sheriff, 'for on the gallows thou shalt certainly die; and so shall thy master that knave Robin Hood, if ever he comes into my hands.' 'Oh, cowardly slave!' said Will Stukely, 'Oh, faint-hearted shameful wretch, that dares not to fight with an unarmed man; my master scorns thy dastard soul, and all thy cowardly crew.'

Now when they were come to the gallows, and Will Stukely was going to bid adieu to this world, out of a bush steps Little John, and comes towards the place; 'I beg thee, Will Stukely,' said he, 'just to come and take leave of thy friends, I needs must borrow thee for a time: pray what say you, good Sheriff?' 'Now as I live,' said the

Sheriff, 'I will know who this villain is, that comes so boldly here; therefore let him not escape, for he is some sturdy rebel, that ought to be punished severely.' But Little John hastily cut away Stakely's bands, and from one of the Sheriff's men snatched a sword, which he put into his hands, crying, 'Take this, my friend, for thou canst wield it well; defend thyself awhile, till further succour shall come.' These two then turned themselves back to back, in the midst of the Sheriff's men, and fought with wonderful skill, till Robin Hood approached, with his band of stout bowmen, and their arrows quickly flew all around, which made the Sheriff and his doughty men fly speedily from the field. 'I little thought,' said Will Stukely, 'when first I came to this spot, that I here should have met with Little John, or seen my master's face.—What thanks can I return that will pay the debt I owe? but since he vouchsafed to come, and again has set me free, I will ever obey him with heart and with hand, as long as I live, and to you my brave comrades, my dearest thanks are due.'

'Now once again,' said Robin Hood, 'we will meet in the shady green wood, to make our bow strings twang, and merrily pass the day.'

Will Stakely thus was doom'd to die,
And stood upon the brink of fate,
But Robin made the Sheriff fly,
And sav'd him from his furious hate.

ROBIN HOOD TURNED FISHERMAN;

Or an account of his going to sea, and the rich prize that he took.

IN summer time, when the leaves were green, and the flowers sweet and gay, when the lily appeared with the primrose and cowslip-buds, Robin Hood grew weary of the forest and woods, and left off to chase the fat deer. 'I will hasten to Scarborough now,' said he, 'and become a fisherman, for a fisherman's trade is good, and their harvest is in the sea.'

And when Robin came to Scarborough, he took up his inn at a widow's house, not far from the wide ocean; and

the widow said to him, 'Tell me, my bold young fellow where thou wast born, and what is thy means of support.' 'I am a poor fisherman,' he replied, 'and want to be employed.' 'Then what is thy name,' asked she; and he answered again, 'In mine own country I am called Simon Wise.' 'Simon Wise, Simon Wise,' said the good dame, 'I am afraid thou hast got an unfit name, that may make thee the jest of thy fellows; however Simon, if thou wilt serve me, I will give thee good wages, for I have as good a ship of my own as any that sails on the sea.'

So Robin consented to serve this good widow, and went by the name of poor Simon. After a time the ship went to sea, and they sailed along for several days in hopes to take plenty of fish, but when others cast their baited hooks into the sea, Simon only cast in his bare lines. 'It will be a long while,' said the master, 'ere this lubber will learn to thrive upon the sea. Let him do as he will, he shall have none of our fish, for in truth he is worthy of none.' 'What a hard fate is mine,' said poor Simon, 'since I set up for a fisherman before I had learned my trade; now every clownish fisherman laughs me to scorn; but if I had them in Sherwood groves, and was chasing the fat fallow deer, I would set as little by them as they do now by me.'

Away they sailed, and steered their course towards home, but the next day they espied a French ship of war that sailed vigorously after them. 'Oh, we are now lost!' said the master; 'unhappy the day that I was born, for our ship and our cargo will be taken from us, and these Frenchmen will carry us to the coast of France, and lay us fast in prison.' But Simon said, 'Fear them not, master, only give me my bow in my hand, and never a Frenchman shall live to board us.' 'Hold thy peace, thou great lubber,' said the master, 'for thou art nothing but brags and boasts, and if I should throw thee into the sea, there would only be a piece of lumber lost.'

Simon was grievously vexed at these words, and taking his bow, he went towards the ship's hatch. 'Master, tie me to the mast,' cried he, 'and let me stand fair at the mark; then give me my bow in my hand, and if I spare a single Frenchman, may they shoot their arrows through my breast.' Then Simon drew his arrow to the head, and shot with such boldness and skill, that, in the twinkling of an eye, he pierced the first Frenchman's heart. He took such

good aim, and shot so hastily, that soon not a Frenchman could be seen, for they all fell down dead through the hatches below. 'Now, master, untie me from the mast,' cried he, 'that I may go and board the French ship.' And when they came thither, they found all their enemies slain; and discovered on board twelve thousand pounds in glittering gold. Then said Simon, 'One half of the ship I will give to our good mistress and her three little children; and the other half I will divide among you, who are my comrades, to make you think well of poor Simon.' 'Not so,' said the master, 'for that would be a shame, if we should receive what you have won so gallantly; 'tis all your own right, and you shall have the whole.' 'If so,' answered Simon, 'with this glittering gold I will build an habitation for the oppressed, where they may live in peace and rest.'

Poor Simple Simon though despis'd,
 Soon made his skill and valour priz'd,
 And prov'd bold Robin Hood:
 The Frenchmen's gold when he possess'd,
 He rais'd a dwelling for th' oppress'd;
 And made his promise good.

ROBIN HOOD AND THE WARLIKE FRIAR;

With an account of the famous combat which they fought.

As Robin Hood and his men one day were exercising their bows in the wood, and talking merrily together, Will Scarlet said to his comrades, 'Although we can use our bows well, and fight with much courage and skill, there lives a friar in Fountain Abbey, that will beat us and our master: for this friar is both lusty and strong, and he uses his sword and his bow so skilfully, that no man has ever yet been able to make him yield. He lives alone in old Fountain Abbey, and guards it like a strong castle, so that no man may dare to pass that way without his consent.'

When Robin Hood heard this, he took a solemn oath that he would neither eat nor drink till he had seen the friar, and had tried his manhood. He then put on his bright armour, with a cap of steel upon his head, and a sword and buckler by his side, which became him well. He took his long

bow in his hand, with a quiver of arrows, and went forwards to Fountain Abbey; and when he came thither, he beheld this stout friar, walking by the river side, arrayed in bright armour.

Robin Hood now alighted from his horse, and tied him fast to a tree; then going up to the friar, he said with a fierce countenance, 'Take me up on thy back, thou stout friar, and carry me over the water, or else thou shalt forfeit thy life.' The friar took Robin upon his back, and through the deep water took his way, and spoke neither good nor bad till he came to the other side. Then Robin leaped lightly from the friar's back; and the friar said to him, 'Now carry me over the water, my bold fellow, or else thou shalt forfeit thy life.' Robin took the friar upon his back, and through the deep water took his way, and spoke neither good nor bad till he came to the other side. The friar leaped lightly from Robin's back, and then Robin said to him again, 'Carry me over the water, stout friar, or else it shall breed thee pain.' The friar took Robin Hood upon his back, and through the deep water took his way, but when he was come to the middle of the stream, he boldly threw Robin in, and said, 'Now take thy choice my fine fellow, whether thou wilt sink or swim.' Then Robin swam to the shore, and took his bow in his hand, and bid the friar to stand on his guard, who took his steel buckler, and bade him begin; while Robin shot all his arrows at his foe, and the friar turned them aside. Soon after they took their broad swords, and fought with furious skill, from ten o'clock, (when they began,) till four in the afternoon.

At length, when Robin found that he could not conquer his foe, he said to the friar, 'I pray thee to grant me one request, which is, that I may put my horn to my mouth, and make it sound once more.' And when Robin sounded his loud bugle horn, half an hundred stout archers (whom he had stationed near) appeared with their strongbows. 'Whose men are these,' said the friar, 'that come hither so hastily?' 'Oh, these are all mine,' answered Robin, 'Now prithee, stout friar, submit.' 'I now beg thee to grant me a favour,' said he, 'which is, that I may set my hand to my mouth, and whistle three whistles aloud.' And when the friar's whistles were heard, half a hundred of large mastiff dogs came running over the field. 'Here is for every man a dog,' said the friar to Robin, 'and I myself am for thee; now take

thy choice whether thou wilt fly or yield.' Two dogs at once flew at Robin, one behind and one before, and tore his green mantle from off his back ; and which way soever his men shot their arrows, these dogs, as they had been taught, caught the shafts of the arrows in their mouths.

Little John had a large oaken cudgel in his hand ; and he said to the friar, ' Take off thy strong dogs, thou bold friar, or else they shall all be slain, and thou shalt repent of thy assault.' ' Why, who art thou,' said the friar, ' that thinkest I shall yield at thy bidding?' ' I am called Little John,' he replied ; ' and am the foreman of Robin Hood ; if thou dost not take off thy dogs, I will cut off thy dogs and thee.' Little John then began to use his large cudgel and struck with such a mighty arm, that quickly a full score of the friar's dogs lay dead upon the plain. ' Oh, hold thy hand,' said the friar, ' and let us end the fight, for thy master and I will be friends.' Then said Robin Hood, ' If thou wilt forsake Fountain Abbey, and go and dwell with me, every Sunday throughout the year, thy garments shall be changed anew, and ten shillings each week shall be thy pay. Come, go with me to Nottingham woods, and there thou shalt live a merry life, without strife or care.'

The friar had lived at Fountain Abbey, which he guarded like a strong castle, for more than seven long years ; and there was never a knight, a baron, or lord, that could make him yield before.

The friar thus yielded to bold Robin Hood,
And afterwards join'd him in Nottingham wood.

ROBIN HOOD AND THE PINDAR OF WAKEFIELD ;

Describing the famous combat that was fought by Robin Hood, Will Scarlet, and Little John, and the jolly Pindar ; and their friendly agreement afterwards.

IN Wakefield resided a jolly young Pindar, stout and bold, who handled a staff with such wonderful skill, that no man would venture to contend with him. This Pindar used to boast, that there was never a baron, a knight, or a 'squire through the land, that dared to make a trespass upon the town of Wakefield, or to make a way over the field, while

he was the keeper, without his consent. It happened one day, that Robin Hood, Will Scarlet, and Little John, by chance, overheard his boasting discourse, and resolved to put his manhood to the test; they therefore quitted the path, and took their way boldly across the field, which, as soon as the Pindar espied, as he sat beneath a thorn, he rose and pursued them in haste. 'Turn again, turn again,' said the jolly Pindar, 'I command you to turn back again. You have gone a wrong way, and forsaken the king's high road, to trespass upon the young corn; therefore your bucklers and swords you must leave as a forfeit to me.' 'We will not part with our bucklers and swords,' said Robin, 'nor will we turn back again, for our pleasure lies this way; and were we not three to one, and fighting would be a shame, thy boldness should cost thee dear.' 'I value not your numbers,' said the Pindar, 'although you be three to one; my oaken staff is as good as a host; and I challenge you to the fight.'

The Pindar then leaped back, and placed his back to a tree, with his foot against a thorn, and there he maintained the fray, during a long summer's day, against these three stout foresters, who all that while could never compel him to yield: for he rained his blows so fast and so hard, with his long oaken staff, that the sweat trickled down from their brows, like the rain in a mist, and oftentimes the blood appeared, so that their faces shone with streaks of various hues, like the rainbow amidst the clouds. The Pindar maintained the combat so well, that at length his hard blows broke their swords to the hilts, and they had nothing but their bucklers for defence, so they began to cry out for peace. 'Hold thy hand, hold thy hand,' said bold Robin Hood, 'and my merry men, all give over; for this is the bravest Pindar that ever I tried with a sword.—If thou, my brave Pindar, wilt forsake thy trade, and go to Nottingham wood with me, thou shalt ever have cause to rejoice that thou hast met with bold Robin Hood.'

'Art thou Robin Hood?' said the Pindar; 'I am glad if this be true, for I long to partake of thy fame. At Michaelmas next my time will be out, when my master and I will part; then will I take my wages in my hand, with my sword, my staff, and bag, and rove to the green wood with thee.' 'Hast thou here either meat or drink,' said bold Robin, 'that my men and I may dine, whilst we rest beneath the thorn?' 'Yes, I have both meat and drink,' said the

Pindar, 'and you shall be welcome to dine with me while we rest our weary limbs ; for oftentimes have I longed to discourse with Robin Hood.

Soon Michaelmas Day will be come and gone,

And I shall then be free ;

Then I will put my doublet on,

And rove the forest with thee.

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ROBIN HOOD AND THE TANNER OF NOTTINGHAM;

Being an account of their fierce combat ; with the merry meeting of Arthur and Little John.

In Nottingham there lived a jolly tanner, whose name was Arthur O'Bland ; his limbs were large and strong, and his courage bold and fearless, so that no man in the town of Nottingham dared to contend with him. As he went out into the forest of Sherwood, on a summer's morning, to view the fat deer, he met with bold Robin Hood ; and as soon as Robin beheld him, he was inclined to have some diversion with this jolly stranger : he therefore went up to Arthur, and said, ' Why, what bold fellow art thou, that art roving here so freely ? in truth, thou lookest like a thief, that art come to steal the king's deer. I am a keeper in this forest, and the king has put me in trust to look after his deer ; therefore I bid thee to stand, for all who break our forest-laws will be hanged without delay. ' If thou art the king's keeper here, and hast such great command,' said bold Arthur, ' thou must get thee many more helpers, before thou canst make me to yield ; for I care not a straw for thy arrows and bow ; my good oaken staff shall correct thy manners, and make thee repent of thy deeds. '

Robin Hood then unbuckled the belt from his loins, and laying his bow aside, took up another staff of lusty size, crying, ' I yield to thy weapon, my bold fellow, since thou wilt not yield to mine ; but let us measure our weapons before we begin ; for if mine should be longer than thine, it will be counted foul play. ' ' I care not about its length,' replied Arthur O'Bland ; ' for mine is stout enough to knock down a calf, and I hope it will knock down thee. ' Robin then could no longer forbear, but gave him a heavy blow on the crown, and made the blood appear. Bold Arthur returned the blow, and all the wood rung with their lusty strokes, for

the fight lasted two long hours, till both grew weary and faint; and then Robin said to his rival, 'Hold thy hand, my good fellow, and let our quarrel cease, for if we fight all day, and thrash our bones to dust, we shall get little good by the fray. Hereafter thou shalt be free of the forest, and roam where thou wilt without hindrance, for none can be free of these woods without my consent.' 'My freedom I bought with my oaken staff,' said Arthur; 'and no thanks are due to thee; so get thyself gone, and think thyself easily used that I suffer thee to depart with whole bones.'

'Nay, tell me thy name before we part,' said Robin; 'and I would gladly know thy trade, and thy place of abode.' 'My name is Arthur O'Bland,' he replied; 'I am a tanner by trade, and live at Nottingham. If ever thou shouldst come to that town, I vow I will tan thy hide for nothing.' 'I thank thee, kind fellow,' said Robin; 'and since thou art so free, I will tell thee that my name is Robin Hood; and if thou wilt forsake thy trade and live in the wood with me, I will pay thee well for thy time.' 'If thou art Robin Hood,' said Arthur, 'and truly I think thou art, I'll give thee my hand, and serve thee with a willing mind. But tell me, pray tell me, where is little John; for I long to hear something of him: he is my kinsman by my mother's side, and the nearest relation I have.'

Robin Hood then blew his bugle horn, which sounded over the hills, and quickly they saw Little John running hastily towards the place.—'Oh, what is the matter,' said Little John to his master; 'and why do you stand thus with your long staff in your hand. I fear that all is not well.' 'This tanner and I,' said Robin Hood, 'have had a stout fight; but now he is my friend, and I understand that he is a kinsman of thine; and his name is Arthur O'Bland.'

When Little John heard this, he threw his cudgel away, and ran in haste to Arthur O'Bland, and clung around his neck in a loving embrace, weeping for joy that he had met his kinsman. Then Robin took them both by the hand, and danced about the oak tree, saying,

Until our life ends
We will all be friends,
Our time shall pass merrily on;
The fiddlers shall ring,
And the damsels shall sing
Of Robin, and Arthur, and John.

ROBIN HOOD AND THE KING'S KEEPER;

Or, a true friend made of a stout foe.

WHEN Phoebus had melted the island of ice,
And destroy'd all the mountains of snow;
One day Robin Hood, in a frolicsome mood,
Went rambling about with his bow.

He left all his archers in waiting behind,
And rov'd thro' the woods far and near:
When near the hill-side, the king's keeper he 'spy'd,
Who question'd him why he came there?

I'm going, said Robin, to kill a fat buck,
For me and my men in the wood;
Besides ere I go, I must have a young doe,
For I think they are tender and good.

You'd best have a care, said the keeper in wrath,
For these are his majesty's deer;
Before you shall shoot, your right I'll dispute,
For I'm his chief forester here.

These thirteen long summers, bold Robin reply'd,
My arrows I thus have let fly;
Here freely I range, and methinks it seems strange,
That you should have more right than I.

These woods and this forest I reckon my own,
And so are the nimble deer too;
I therefore declare, ay, and solemnly swear,
That I won't be commanded by you.

The keeper had got a long staff in his hand,
And likewise a sword by his side,
Which, without more ado, from the scabbard he drew,
And said that the truth should be try'd.

Bold Robin had also a sword of the best,
And ere he would suffer a wrong;
His courage was flush, and he long'd for a brush,
To prove if the keeper was strong.

The keeper struck first, and he gave such a blow,
That it made the broad weapon cry twang;
It struck Robin's head, and he fell down for dead,
For he never receiv'd such a bang.

But soon he recover'd, and leap'd on his feet,
And bravely maintain'd his own ground,
At the very first stroke, both their weapons were broke,
Without ever giving a wound.

Their large oaken cudgels they then took in hand,
Because they would have t'other bout,
And brave Robin Hood, most intrepidly stood,
Unwilling to yield or give out.

At length the stout keeper became all enrag'd,
And cudgel'd bold Robin so sore;
He scarcely could stand, and so shaking his hand,
Robin cry'd, let us fairly give o'er:

For thou art a fellow both skilful and brave,
I never knew any so good;
A very fit man to be one of my clan,
And dwell in the merry green wood.

I'll give thee this ring as a token of love,
If thou to my wish art inclin'd;
The man that can fight, I behold with delight,
And love him with heart and with mind.

Robin then took his horn to assemble his men,
And loudly he made it to blow;
His archers soon heard, and in order appear'd,
And each of them brought his long bow.

Little John was their leader, and march'd at their head,
He wore a rich mantle of blue;
The rest were all seen, drest in garments of green,
A beautiful prospect to view.

Lo! these are my bowmen, said bold Robin Hood,
And thou shalt be one of the train;
A quiver and bow, and a dress I bestow,
On those whom I thus entertain.

The keeper survey'd them with pleasing surprise,
 They made such an excellent show,
 At length in his mind, he became quite inclin'd,
 Along with bold Robin to go.

What singing and dancing was then in the wood,
 For joy of another new mate :
 In mirth and delight they employ'd the long night,
 And liv'd at a plentiful rate.

The keeper was never so happy before,
 As when with these hearty brave souls ;
 Who never would fail, both in wine and strong ale,
 To empty their cherishing bowls.

Next day Robin gave him a mantle of green,
 A quiver and curious long bow ;
 And when he was drest quite as gay as the rest,
 Robin rang'd all his men in a row.

Said he, my brave comrades, be true to your trust,
 And when we have nothing to fear,
 We will range the woods wide, with our arms by our side,
 And live without sorrow or care.

They all with a shout made the elements ring,
 And said they would ever be true,
 So he march'd them away, looking gallant and gay,
 Their pastimes and sports to renew.

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BEGGAR.

*Robin fights and changes clothes with a beggar, and delivers
 three foresters who were going to die.*

ONE day when Robin Hood was in a gamesome humour,
 and disposed to spend his time in sport, either with friends
 or foes, he saddled a handsome steed, and dressing himself
 in a comely manner, rode along the road in search of some
 merry adventure. He had not gone far before he beheld
 a jolly beggar, of a strong and lusty make, coming towards

him, who had many little bags hanging over his shoulders, and his coat hung in tatters upon his back, wagging about with every wind. 'Good morrow, my jolly beggar,' said Robin, 'prithee tell me what countryman thou art, and what thou hast got in thy bags.' 'I am Yorkshire, noble sir,' said the beggar, 'and I beg you to give me a few charitable pence. As for my little bags, they are filled with my food, and all that I am able to save in my trade.' 'I will see thy store,' said Robin Hood, 'so prithee open thy bags, and spread their contents on the ground, for I am a bold outlaw, called Robin Hood, and every man holds me in dread.' The beggar refused to comply, therefore Robin dismounted from his steed, and said, 'I must have a bout with thee, thou sturdy beggar, to see who will prove the best man; for I am resolved to open thy little bags; so lay down thy bags and begin the fight.' 'With all my heart,' said the beggar, 'thou shalt soon have the worst of the fray.'

The beggar had a long staff in his hand, so he drew near to Robin, and gave him a hearty blow. 'Fight on,' said Robin, 'for I like the game well.' But for every blow that Robin laid on, the beggar returned him three. At length, said Robin Hood, 'Hold thy hand, my stout beggar, and thou and I will be friends.' 'Before I will be friends with thee,' said the beggar, 'thou shalt give me thy purse and thy rich mantle of green.' 'I consent,' said bold Robin; 'we will make an exchange, for thou shalt have this rich mantle of mine, with my horse and my dress; and I will have thy tattered old coat, and thy little bags.'

So Robin put on the beggar's old coat, and each of them went his way. Then Robin turned himself round to survey his dress, and said in a merry mood, 'Methinks I am now a jolly beggar.'

Here's a bag for my bread, and a bag for my meat,
And one for my flour and my corn;
Here's a bag for my salt, and a bag for my malt,
And one for my loud bugle horn.

'I will now haste to Nottingham,' said he, 'and see what success I can have at my new trade of begging.'

And when Robin came to Nottingham, he was told that three bold foresters, whom he knew, were condemned to die for stealing the king's deer. So he hasted along to the

Sheriff's house, who said to him, 'What wouldst thou have, thou bold beggar?' And he answered, 'I ask not for meat or for drink, but for the lives of the three bold foresters.' 'Get thee gone, thou saucy beggar,' said the Sheriff, 'for I cannot grant thy request. They have stolen the king's fat deer; and all who break our forest laws must be hanged without delay.'

Then Robin Hood returned to his men, and placed them in ambush, as he had used to do. Now, when the three foresters were led out to die, and were come to the fatal tree, where many of their friends stood weeping, because they had never before been guilty of any crime, and had now only broken these cruel forest laws, to which they were driven by want; Robin Hood went and joined in the crowd, and told the culprits to be of good cheer, for they should not suffer death. They looked up to this bold beggar, and shook their heads in despair; but Robin Hood took out his bugle horn, and as soon as the sound was heard, an hundred stout archers appeared, and asked him what they must do. 'Shoot east, shoot west,' said Robin Hood, 'till all our foes are slain.' But the Sheriff and his men were all fled, for as soon as they saw the archers approach, they hasted away with mighty speed.

Robin Hood then stepped up to the three foresters, and took them away to his bower in the wood, where they afterwards dwelt with the rest of the men, and passed the time in mirth and jollity.

Now the foresters range thro' the wood,
No archers more skilful and good

ROBIN HOOD AND THE PRINCE OF FRANCE;

Or, an account of the glorious victory obtained by Robin, Will Scarlet, and Little John, over the Prince of France and his two Giants, who were besieging London with a mighty army; also the marriage of Will Scarlet to the princess, daughter to King John.

As Robin Hood, Will Scarlet, and Little John, were walking over the plain, one day, they beheld a beautiful damsel riding upon a black palfry, all alone, clad in a riding

suit of mourning hue, with a cyprus veil falling over her face, thro' which her rose-like cheeks and comely countenance blushed like the morning light. She passed along, with slow and silent pace, and seemed oppressed with grief and sadness.—'Tell me, Oh tell me, fair damsel,' said Robin Hood, 'what is the cause of thy distress? from whence art thou come, and whither art thou bound, since thou comest in this mournful state?' 'From London I come,' said the damsel, 'and from the banks of the Thames. This city, I grieve to tell! is encircled with foreign arms, for Lewis, the haughty prince of France, and son to Philip the French king, has brought over a mighty army, and threatens to lay this kingdom waste, unless our royal princess, the daughter of England's king, be given him for a spouse, or else three bold and skilful champions must be found that dare to fight man to man against that prince and two tremendous giants, whose grisly looks and flaming eyes, strike terror wherever they come. The king hath vowed and said, that the princess shall be the prize of that courageous man who shall slay the giants, and that he shall have her for his bride? Now the king hath sent four damsels abroad, to the east, to the west, to the north, and to the south, (of whom I myself am one,) to seek for bold and valiant champions, that dare to contend in his cause. But all in vain have we sought throughout the land, for none is found so bold as to venture his life to preserve the fair princess, and therefore is she lost.' 'Tell me,' said Robin Hood, 'Oh tell me the day in which the combat must be fought, and I request no more.' 'On midsummer day,' said the damsel, 'on the 24th of June, this fatal combat must be fought, or else the princess then must be resigned to the proud prince of France.' She spake these words in a sorrowful tone, while the crystal tears fell trickling down her cheeks. Then, with many a heavy sigh, she took her leave, and her palfrey bore her out of sight.

This fatal news struck Robin to the heart, and he fell down on the grass, showing by his actions and his troubled face, the perplexity of his mind. 'Where lies your grief, my dear master?' said Will Scarlet; 'if the damsel's bright eyes have pierced your heart I will presently fetch her back again,' 'Oh no, Oh no,' said Robin Hood, 'tis not the damsel's bright eyes that have pierced my heart, but the sorrowful fate of the distressed princess. I myself will go and fight these mighty giants, and set the lady free.' 'May

'I die an evil death,' said Little John, 'if I suffer thee to go alone—I will bear thee company over the world.'—'Must I be left behind?' said Will Scarlet, 'no, that shall never be.—I will make the third man in the fight, and then we shall be three to three.' These words cheered Robin to the soul, and joy shone upon his face; he hugged them both in his arms, and vowed he would love them well.

Soon after they set out on their journey, arrayed like pilgrims, with long staves in their hands, and a scrip and a bottle by their sides, as if they were lately come from the Holy Land. Yet, although they made the greatest speed, they were but just in time; for when they arrived the princess was led forth to be delivered to the proud prince of France, who walked about the lists with two huge giants by his side. 'Bring out your valiant champions, ye Englishmen,' cried he, 'or bring hither my bride; if not, proud London shall be burnt, and all its buildings razed.'

The king and queen then came forth, and said with weeping eyes, 'Our valiant men are all slain by the sword, and we have no defence: lo therefore, we have brought our dearest daughter out, to be resigned to thee.' Then stepped up bold Robin Hood, and said to the king, 'My sovereign lord, it must not be.—A princess so beautiful and fair, was not designed for this proud tyrant's hand, and she shall now be saved from his power.' At this the prince of France began to rage, and cried, 'Fool that thou art, how darest thou thus boldly advance to step between my bride and me? my arm shall strike thee dead.' 'I scorn thy frowns, and I scorn thy power,' said Robin Hood, 'I defy thy arm, and challenge thee to fight; and as for thy two Goliaths, who stand by thy side, here are two little Davids just by, that soon can tame their proud spirits.'

The king then sent for bright armour, for lances, swords, and shields, and arrayed Robin Hood and his men; the trumpets sounded the charge, and each singled out his man: They struck with such mighty force, that their armour was soon hewed in pieces, and blood gushed out from every limb. At length the prince of France gave Robin Hood an unexpected blow, that forced him to reel about the field, as though he had been going to yield up his life, but soon he recovered and stood on his guard, crying: 'That blow shall be well repaid, and our quarrel quickly decided; this stroke shall make a full divorce betwixt thy bride and thee.' Then

with his burnished blade, he hewed his head from his shoulders, and struck him to the ground. The giants when they saw their prince lie dead, began to rage and swear; 'thy turn shall be the next,' said Little John to his foe, 'so follow thou thy master.' Then whirling his keen weapon high in the air, he cleaved the giant to his belt, and pierced his wicked heart. Will Scarlet had also played his part well, for he brought the other giant down on his knee by a mighty blow, and said, 'Go follow thy comrades to the pit of destruction, and there repent of thy crimes.' Quickly he ran his sharp-pointed sword thro' his body and made a deep and ghastly wound. The giant foamed and cursed in writhing agony, and fell upon the ground a lifeless corpse.

The air was now rent with universal shouts, and the lists resounded with songs of joy; the king and queen came walking toward the place, leading their beautiful daughter in their hand, and going up to the three valiant and unknown champions, returned them hearty thanks, with tears of joyful pleasure. 'Tell me, Oh tell me,' said the king, 'from whence you come, and who you are, for your gallant deeds speak you of noble blood.' 'Before I declare my name, my gracious king,' said Robin Hood, 'I have one request to make.' 'I swear by my crown,' said the king, 'to grant you whatever you ask.' 'Then I beg a full pardon,' said he, 'for all my merry men in Sherwood bower, and also for me, Robin Hood, for Will Scarlet and Little John, who now are standing here.' 'Art thou Robin Hood?' said the king, 'for the valour thou hast displayed I freely grant thy pardon, and bid you all three right welcome.—I promised that the princess should be the victor's prize, but you all have an equal claim, and she cannot have but one.' 'The princess shall choose,' said Robin, 'and take the man she likes best.' The princess then cast her eyes upon all three, with a sweet and modest grace, and took Will Scarlet by the hand, saying, 'Here I make my choice.'

A noble lord was standing by, called the Earl of Maxfield, who now advanced, and looking earnestly in Will Scarlet's face, quickly burst into tears, and said, 'I once had a son, who was greatly like thee, and he went by the name of Young Gamewell; he fled away from his friends, and I fear is now dead, because I have long sought him in vain; for I dearly loved him, and greatly I mourn his loss.' Will Scarlet then fell on his knees, and cried, 'Oh my father,

behold me here ! behold your son ! your Young Gamewell kneels at your feet.' But who can tell his father's joy, and the joy of all their friends, to have him thus restored and chosen to be the spouse of England's beautiful princess, and favoured by the king.

The wedding then was kept in royal stile, with feasts and sports, and noble entertainments, while mirth and joy resounded through the land, because they no longer stood in fear of the proud prince of France, who had threatened to lay all the kingdom waste. The king gave great gifts to Robin Hood and Little John, who shortly after returned to their merry comrades in Sherwood gay bower.

What mighty deeds were done
By Robin and his men !
Such deeds the glorious sun
Shall never see again.

LITTLE JOHN AND THE FOUR BEGGARS ;

Or, an account of his beginning a new trade, with the fortune that he got by it.

ONE day, when Robin Hood and his men were tired of chasing the fat deer, they consulted together to find out some new diversion. Then said bold Robin, ' We will even go a-begging, one by one, to seek some merry sport, and thou shalt be the first, Little John, for if thou shalt find success, another may soon set out.' ' If I must even go a-begging,' said Little John, ' I will have a pilgrim's dress, with a staff in my hand, and little bags hanging over my shoulders, to hold my provisions, and whatever I get at my trade.'

Little John then set out, and began to beg of all that he met in his way ; some gave him relief, and some gave him none, and some bid him begone in a rage ; but of all the beggars he happened to meet, there was none that surpassed Little John at his trade. At last, as he was walking along the road, he saw four brother beggars appear, one lame, and one blind, and one dumb, and one deaf, who merrily travelled together. Says Little John to himself, ' Here's a

jovial company, and I must join them awhile, to prove if this ragged crew are as arrant cheats as myself.' 'Good morrow, my dear brethren,' said he, 'I am hearty glad to meet you here, for I want some good company, so tell me which way you are bound.'

Now when they had travelled some time upon the road, the bells of a neighbouring town began to ring, and Little John cried, 'Pray what's now to be done? is somebody's dog led to be hanged? come, let us go thither and see.' 'No dog is now led to hanging,' said one, 'but I'm told there's a charitable person dead, and we shall meet with good bread and cheese, and perhaps a few pence to put in our purse; but since thou art a stranger, and dost not belong to our company, thy portion shall be divided among us, for we have brethren in London, and others in Coventry, and some at Berwick and Dover, but we never had a great ugly imp like thee.' 'I will have my share,' said Little John, 'and none shall be greater than mine, for I defy you all.' 'Then take that knock on the crown,' said the other, 'and get thee gone from hence.' But John soon returned the blow, and they all fell to fighting together. Little John struck the dumb and made him speak and roar; the blind he caused to behold the light; and he that had been a cripple for seven long years, ran swiftly away from the fray. Little John then seized upon their bags, which they dropped in their speedy flight, and presently told out upon the ground an hundred pounds in bright silver and gold. 'My fortune is good,' said he, 'and if I drink water while this holds out, may I die an evil death. I will now give over my begging trade, because my fortune is already made, and join my merry comrades in Sherwood bower.'

And when he was come to Sherwood bower, Robin Hood merrily cried, 'What news, what news, Little John? and how hast thou sped with thy begging trade?' 'My news is good,' answered he, 'and my trade is good, pray open my bags and see.' Then Robin Hood took Little John by the hand, and danced around the green oaken tree, singing,

Thy trade is the best
That was ever possest,
And soon has thy fortune been made,
If we e'er make a fast,
While this money shall last,
May we never succeed in thy trade.

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD;

*With the Bishop's merry entertainment in Sherwood
bovers.*

Let others tell of the acts of mighty kings and states,
their bloody wars, and dear-bought victories, but I delight
to tell the merry and bold exploits of famous Robin Hood,
though my history now draws towards a close.

One day Robin Hood was informed that the bishop of Hereford was to pass through the forest with all his company. Then said he to his men, 'Come let us kill a fat buck, since our venison is so good, and dress it by the highway side, for the bishop of Hereford is to dine with me to-day, and we will make him pay well for his cheer; but take care to watch him narrowly, least he ride some other way.' Robin then clad himself and six of his men, in the dress of shepherds, and when the proud bishop of Hereford came by, they stood around their fire, as if they were dressing their meat. 'Oh what is the matter here,' said the bishop, 'and for whom do you this provide? Or dare you be so bold as to kill the king's deer with so small a company, and then dress the venison by the highway side?' 'We are shepherds, my lord,' said bold Robin Hood, 'and as we keep sheep all the year, we are disposed to be merry to-day, and to kill a few of the king's fat deer.' 'You are bold hearty fellows,' said the bishop, 'but the king shall know of your doings; therefore, come and go along with me, and I will bring you before his face.' 'Oh pardon, Oh pardon!' said bold Robin Hood, 'Oh grant our pardon this once! for it does not become your lordship's cloth, to take so many lives away.' 'No pardon, no pardon,' said the bishop, 'no pardon will I bestow; therefore make haste, and come along with me, for you shall go before the king.'

Robin Hood then drew his bugle horn from beneath his shepherd's coat, and loudly made it sound, till threescore

and ten of his archers appeared, running that way, all in a row. And when they came before their master's face, 'twas a goodly sight to behold how every man bent his knee, and made obeisance. 'Oh what is the matter, dear master,' said Little John, 'that you sounded your horn so loud?' 'Oh here is the bishop of Hereford,' said he, 'who threatens to take us before the king, and refuses to grant our pardon, because we have killed a few fat deer.' 'If we were to cut off his head,' said Little John, 'we should act as kind to him as he would do to us.' 'Oh pardon, Oh pardon,' the bishop then cried, 'Oh grant me pardon this once, for if I had known Robin Hood had been here, I'd have gone some other way, and have given you no offence.' 'No pardon, no pardon,' said Robin, (again repeating the bishop's own words,) 'no pardon will I bestow; therefore make haste, and come along with me, for you shall go to my shady green bower.'

Then Robin Hood took the proud bishop by the hand, and led him to his bower where he made him to stay and dine, and sup with him at night. He fed him with venison and wine, and caused him to drink many bumpers of beer to the health of him and his men: 'Now call in the reckoning,' said the bishop, 'for methinks it must run pretty high.' 'Then lend me your purse,' said Little John, 'and I will presently tell what there is to pay.' Little John then took the bishop's rich cloak, and spread it upon the ground, and out of his full purse, told down three hundred pounds.—'Here's glittering gold in plenty,' said Little John, 'and it makes me to be in charity with the bishop, though I know he loves not me.'

Robin Hood now again took the bishop by the hand, and causing the music to play, he made him dance in his boots round the green oaken tree; but at length he suffered his guest to depart, and the bishop was heartily glad to get so well away.

Thus the proud boasting bishop, who
Deny'd the suit of Robin Hood,
Himself was forc'd to beg and sue,
And dance with Robin in the wood.

ROBIN HOOD AND SIR WILLIAM TRUSTY;

With an account of the bloody battle that was fought between them.

Now when Robin Hood and his valiant men had reigned many years in the forest of Sherwood, where they levied contributions on the rich and proud, but protected the poor and honest, king Henry was informed that they had been so bold as to stop some of his bishops and noble peers, and had taken away their gold, therefore he called a council of state, to consult what was best to be done, in order to quell these bold outlaws, or else they feared that the kingdom would be over-run with robbers. And when they had consulted a whole summer's day, it was agreed, that a bold and valiant knight should be sent, with an hundred chosen men, to fetch Robin Hood by force, and bring him before the king. Then the king called to him a gallant knight, named Sir William Trusty, and said to him, 'Take you an hundred chosen men, all of them brave and skilful archers, and go from hence to bold Robin Hood, and bid him surrender himself and all his men without delay, or else they shall suffer death.'—Then said the knight, 'My sovereign lord, your will shall be obeyed; I will venture my blood against Robin Hood, and bring him either alive or dead.'

Sir William then set out, and marched his men away in gallant pride, with long yew bows and shining spears, to conquer these bold outlaws; and when they were come to the forest of Sherwood, they halted by the green wood side, and Sir William said to his bowmen, 'Tarry awhile here, and make ready your bows, and take care to observe my call, that if there be need, you may follow me to the presence of bold Robin Hood. I will first go myself, to show him the letter signed and sealed by the king, and if he will yield without dispute, no blood shall be shed in the cause.'

Now when he came to Robin Hood's bower, he showed him the king's letter, which, when Robin had read, he arose and stood on his guard, and cried aloud to his men, 'To

arms! to arms! my valiant archers, for the enemy is at hand. They would have me surrender, and lie at their mercy, and but little mercy they would show; but go, Sir, Knight, and tell the king, I never will basely submit, while I have seven score men who are ready to fight at my side.' Sir William the Knight, who was both hearty and bold, then attempted to seize upon Robin Hood, but some of his men prevented his design, and bid him forbear the deed.

Robin then applied his horn to his mouth, to call the rest of his men together, and Sir William likewise did the same, so that presently the archers appeared on each side, and ranged themselves around their masters. The knight drew up his men with skill, and placed them in battle array, and so did bold Robin Hood. The archers on both sides bent their bows, and soon a bloody fight began; the field was crimsoned over with blood, and many a gallant bowman lay stretched upon the ground. Each party was strong, and their courage ran high, so that the battle lasted from morn till noon, and neither side would give out. At length a fatal arrow, shot from a mighty bow, pierced the heart of Sir William, and he fell to the ground without life, which, when his men saw, they gave over the fight, and went off with speed towards London, leaving Robin Hood the master of the field.

This bloody fight was fought on the thirtieth day of June, and still from that day, this spot of ground is marked with red.

O what a bloody fight,
Can any take delight
In horrid war?
Shall brother fight with brother,
And murder one another,
Because their int'rests jar?
O for the gentle reign
Of universal peace,
When concord shall obtain,
And war shall ever cease!

ROBIN HOOD's DEATH.

AND now I must bring my stories to a close, and tell the unhappy death of valiant Robin Hood.

When the last bloody fight was over, Robin and his men returned to their bower, and after they had recovered from their bruises and wounds, they lived some time together, as they had used to do; but after awhile Robin Hood fell ill, and because he required to be treated with skill, he went to Kirkly Abbey, where they sent for a monk to bleed him, and this monk being eager to get the reward that king Henry had set upon Robin Hood's head most treacherously bled him to death.

Thus he that never feared a sword or a bow, or any man that lived was basely killed in letting blood, and died without a friend to close his eyes. As soon as his men heard of his death, they were filled with grief and dismay, and fled away in haste. Some of them crossed the seas, and went to Flanders, and some to France, and some to Spain and Rome.

Thus Robin after all his gallant play,
Was doom'd to die;
Death is a debt every man must pay,
And so must you and I.

There remains now little to add; but that Robin Hood having pursued his licentious course of living forty years, or more, when falling sick, was struck with remorse of conscience for his past mispent life and unlawful practices, which made him privately withdraw to a monastery in Yorkshire, where, being let blood by a monk, he bled to death, aged 63 years; and was interred in Kirkly Park; with this epitaph on his grave-stone:

Here, underneath this marble stone,
Thro' death's assault, now lieth one,
Known by the name of Robin Hood,
Who was a thief and archer good;

Full twenty years, or somewhat more,
He robb'd the rich to feed the poor ;
Therefore bedew his grave with tears,
And offer for his soul your prayers.

He died December 24th, 1247.

Near the monument are yet two little hills, called Robin Hood's butts, which he and his archers used to shoot at.

CONCLUSION.

AND now, my merry masters, let us seek to draw a little instruction from Robin Hood's life. Let us imitate all his good deeds and avoid his bad ways.

He was noble-minded and generous to his friends and followers; he was valiant and merciful to his enemies, whom he always used mildly; he was charitable and kind to the poor, always doing them all the good that lay in his power: while he never harmed the honest and lowly; and in these particulars we may profitably follow his good example.—But he was extravagant and riotous in his manner of living, which first led him into difficulties, and at length caused him to break the laws to support his unbounded generosity. He was rash and daring in his wild exploits, and often narrowly escaped death, thro' his heedless temerity. He set the law at defiance, and plundered all those that dared to oppose him, always following the dictates of his first unsettled thoughts, without any fear of the evil that followed. In these things let us avoid his frequent faults.

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THE END.

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